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Monsoon Makes Its Wettest Start In Decades ■ 3 Kids Die In Gr Noida Wall Collapse ■ Water On Premises Delays AIIMS Surgeries

RECORD HEAT, RECORD RAIN, ENDLESS PAIN

Airport Roof Collapse Flattens Cars, Kills Cabbie; Lucky Escape For Others

Abhay & Priyangi Agarwal | TNN

New Delhi: In an alarming incident that led to many red faces, the heavy downpour brought down the canopy at the forecourt of Terminal 1 at IGI Airport early on Friday morning, leaving a cab driver dead and eight people injured. This threw flights at the terminal into disarray.

A bigger tragedy was averted as eyewitnesses said around 100 people were present at the spot when the incident took place. The canopy had tilted before coming down, which allowed most of the people to escape.

RAIN OF TERROR:
PAGES 3-6, 8, 11, 18
► **EDIT: In For A Stricture**

The deceased was identified as Ramesh Kumar (45), who lived with his family at Vijay Vihar in Rohini. He had come to drop a passenger and was about to head home when the incident took place.

A case under IPC Sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 337 (causing hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others) has been registered by police and an investigation launched. Delhi International Airport Ltd has formed a technical committee to probe the incident. Govt sources said the structure that collapsed had been erected in 2008-09.

Those undergoing treatment at different hospitals

CANOPY TILTED, THEN FELL



The canopy, spanning departure gates 1 to 2, collapsed around 5am. Four vehicles, including the one in which a cab driver lost his life, were damaged. When TOI visited the spot, it found various agencies involved in removing the debris. Some of the metal pillars supporting the structure appeared to be rusted. DIAL has announced compensation of ₹20L for the cabbie's family

128 flights hit, ops moved to T2, T3

Flight operations at T1 have been suspended, shifted to T2 and T3, and 128 flights were cancelled. Several flyers learned of the cancellations after they reached the airport. The aviation ministry said "flights have been closed till further notice". About 200 IndiGo and SpiceJet flights operate from T1. **P 6**

are Santosh Kumar Yadav (28), Dasarath Ahirwar (25), Arvind (34), Sahil Sudan (27) and Yogesh Dhawan (44). The injured include a cab driver, airport staff and a passenger.

Ministry to airlines: Avoid steep fare hikes

The capacity crunch has led to the civil aviation ministry advising against any "steep" hike in fares to and from Delhi. This weekend was expected to see very high traffic as school summer break is ending. The ministry has asked structural engineers from IIT Delhi to "immediately assess the incident". **P 6**

Three other people, all passengers, apparently told police they didn't sustain any serious injuries.

The canopy, spanning from departure gates 1 to 2, collapsed around 5am. Four vehicles, including the one in which a taxi driver lost his life, were crushed by the structure.

AAP seeks CBI probe; ask partner Cong: BJP

AAP demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore for the family of the cabbie and demanded a CBI probe into all central govt infrastructure projects. While AAP said the terminal was inaugurated in March, Delhi BJP countered that it was built in 2009 and AAP should question alliance partner Congress about it. **P 6**

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The canopy, spanning from departure gates 1 to 2, collapsed around 5am. Four vehicles, including the one in which a taxi driver lost his life, were crushed by the structure.

► **Cutters used, P 6**

Highest June Day Rainfall In 88 Years Leaves Five Dead & A Flood Of Woes

Kushagra Dixit @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Scorched and parched by record heat and dry spell over the past two months, Delhiites had been yearning for the monsoon. But when it arrived unexpectedly on Friday morning, it brought with it a deluge the likes of which the city hadn't seen in nearly three decades.

The city's base station Safdarjung recorded 228.1mm of rain in 24 hours — the highest on a single day since 1996 and the wettest day in June since

► **EDIT PG: How To Tackle Our Cities' Monsoon Mess**

1936 — with as much as 148.5mm falling in just three hours from 2.30am to 5.30am.

IMD promptly declared the arrival of monsoon in Delhi, revising its earlier onset forecast of May 29-30. The agency had forecast light to moderate rain for Friday but Safdarjung recorded "extremely heavy" showers, turning it into a day of traffic trauma and rain-related mishaps. In Vasant Vihar, three labourers fell into a rainwater-filled pit at a construction site and were feared dead, with search still on to



A car lies submerged in a rainwater-filled Mangi Bridge next to Red Fort on Friday; (right) a car falls into a caved-in section of a road in northwest Delhi's Rohini locality

228.1 mm rain in 24 hours, wettest day in city in 28 yrs & highest in June since 1936

30% of Delhi's annual rain fell in a single day

8th day of 100mm+ rain in city in last 4 yrs

Traffic nightmare as jams on 376 stretches

As many as 68 major locations and 308 other stretches in the city witnessed traffic jams as roads were flooded with rainwater, or blocked by fallen trees and vehicles that had broken down. **P 5**

find the bodies. Two boys, aged 8 and 10, drowned in a ditch in northeast Delhi's New Usmanpur. In Greater Noida, three kids died in a wall collapse.

Pragati tunnel goes under, shut down

The showpiece Pragati Maidan transit corridor, inaugurated by the PM just two years ago, was flooded once again and inaccessible to commuters. So was the Minto bridge underpass. **P 4**

Flooding across Delhi with a traffic gridlock and waterlogged underpasses — with spots like Minto Bridge and Pragati tunnel turning into ri-

Again, desilting work a washout

Supervision over agencies involved in desilting drains seemed to be missing and work that should've been done by June 15 fell short again, leading to flooded roads on the first monsoon's day. **P 5**

vers as drain capacities were breached — forced office-goers to rework their schedules.

► **Alert for next 2 days, P 4**

13 of family killed in accident in K'taka

Thirteen members of a family, including two children, returning from a temple after offering prayers for their new MUV were killed and four others injured early Friday when the vehicle rear-ended a sugar-laden truck in Haveri in central Karnataka. **P 12**

After Jio, Airtel & Vodafone hike tariffs

A day after Jio hiked tariffs, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea followed suit and announced tariff hikes by over 20% each. Airtel raised tariffs by 10-21% across plans; Vodafone effected an increase of 13-27%. **P 23**

Blackmail racket via dating apps busted

Delhi police have busted a racket in which a woman allegedly trapped men on dating apps, called them to nondescript cafes, and in collusion with the staff, forced them to cough up lakhs before they could leave. **P 6**

US religious freedom report biased: Govt

India hit out at the US state department's religious freedom report, saying it's deeply biased, lacks understanding about India's social fabric and is driven by vote-bank considerations.

The Indian govt told US that "legitimate" dialogue on rights and respect for diversity should not become a licence for foreign interference. The foreign ministry

► **China expert Misri new foreign secretary, P 14**

said the annual exercise itself is a mix of imputations, misrepresentations, selective usage of facts, reliance on biased sources and a one-sided projection of issues. **P 12**

NEET ruckus rocks Parl as oppn demands debate and forces adjournments

New Delhi: Parliament witnessed stormy scenes Friday as a combative opposition demanded an urgent discussion on the NEET-UG issue with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourning the House within 15 minutes in the morning. Repeated adjournments hit Rajya Sabha over the same issue. "There's a difference between

► **Ready to debate, but oppn must behave: Pradhan, P 12**
► **CBI widens Guj net, says more may be involved, P 20**
► **8 Raj medical students under lens, 2 detained, P 20**

een protest on road and protest inside the House. Don't you (opposition) want the House to run? Don't you want to discuss NEET during the motion of thanks discussion?" Birla asked. Leader of opposition in LS Rahul Gandhi said, "India bloc wants to have a constructive debate with govt on NEET paper leak. It's unfortunate we weren't allowed to do so in Parliament today." **TNN P 12**

Dems panic as Biden bumbles and mumbles in prez debate vs Trump

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US Democrats are in panic mode after a disastrous presidential debate on Thursday night in which their presumptive nominee Joe Biden (81) had what can charitably be described as several senior moments, including a brain freeze that became a gif that will keep on giving.

The President's performance was so sketchy and shaky

► **EDIT PG: Joe, Bye Then?**

that some Democrats are suggesting he should step down and allow the party convention to nominate a new, younger candidate to take on Donald Trump, 78, whose performan-

NTA announces new dates for 3 tests

NTA has announced new dates for NCET, 2024 (July 10), CSIR-UGC-NET (July 25 to 27) and UGC-NET (Aug 25 to Sept 4). The Centre cancelled UGC-NET on June 19, a day after it had been held, following reports of question paper leak. NCET was also held and scrapped. CSIR-UGC-NET was postponed as precaution. **TNN**

CBI arrests J'khand principal, his deputy

CBI on Friday arrested three people, including principal Ehsanul Haque and vice-principal Md Imtiaz of Hazaribag's Oasis School in the NEET case. Haque's call records show he had been in touch with members of the paper leak mafia, CBI claimed. The agency also quizzed 13 suspects arrested by Patna police. **P 20**

K'taka trust not heard, HC scraps cancellation of FCRA regn

Bengaluru: Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), founded by scientist K Ullas Karanth, won relief from the Karnataka high court which quashed a series of orders issued by the home ministry that led to the cancellation of its registration under FCRA, reports Vasantha Kumar. The court said "reasonable opportunity of being heard" could not be restricted to issuing show-cause notice, and said this rendered the action unsustainable.

In a series of flip-flops, Maha slapped a suspension order on CWS under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act on March 5, 2021, extended it, and again cancelled it on Sept 4, 2023 following a show-cause notice on Dec 3, 2021. CWS challenged it, saying a personal hearing under Section 14(2) of the FCRA Act was not given to Karanth.

► **'Not limited', P 18**




► Trump claimed he was the 'greatest' and Biden the 'worst'
► As Biden spoke in a frail and halting voice, Trump said, 'I don't know what he said... I don't think he knows either'

ce at the debate was shallow and superficial but who at least projected confidence along with his familiar bluster.

In contrast, Biden came across as frail and feeble. Spea-

king in a thin, raspy voice—he was ostensibly recovering from a cold—Biden was disjointed, his voice trailing off.

► **Related reports, P 21**



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Two children drown in ditch in NE Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two boys, aged around eight and 10 years, drowned in a rainwater-filled ditch in northeast Delhi's New Usmanpur on Friday. Both the deceased were friends and neighbours, police said.

The drowning incident took place around 5 pm in Khadar area, near 5th Pushpa, New Usmanpur, a police officer said.

"Rainwater had collected in a ditch in the Khadar area up to a depth of about 5 feet. Both boys were playing and went for a swim in the ditch. They drowned due to the water being deep. Both the boys were pulled out and taken to JPC Hospital, where they were declared dead," the officer said.

According to the father of one of the victims, four kids, including two brothers, were playing on the road and then went to the ditch. "I returned with my friend

around 6pm, and my younger son told me that his brother had gone for a bath and hadn't come out," he said.

The father and his friend rushed to the scene and found several people present. According to him, no one came to help the kids. "My friend went into the water and rescued one of the kids, and later my son was pulled out. But it was already 30 minutes late," he said, adding that both were pronounced dead.

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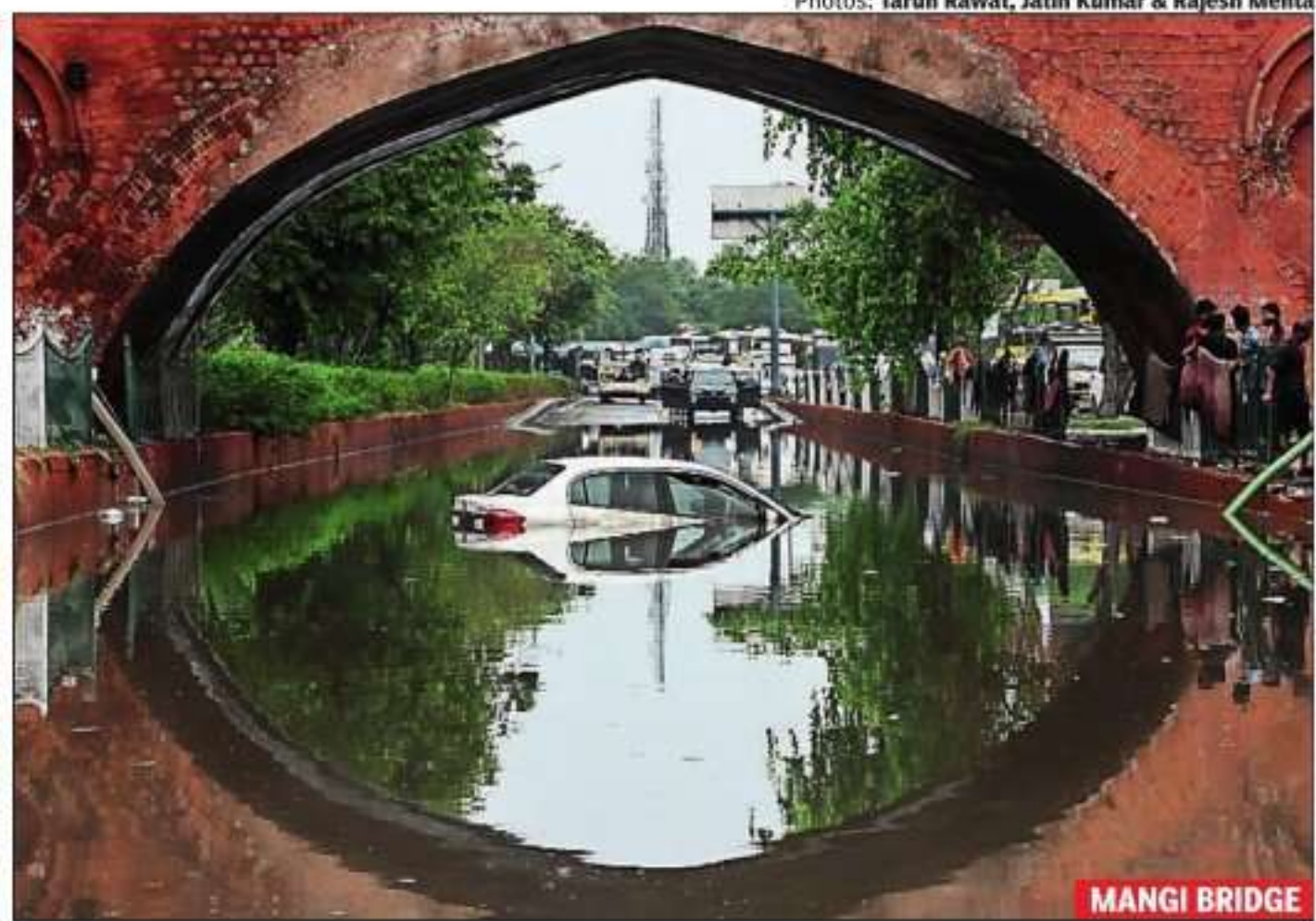
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NEAR TILAK BRIDGE



Photos: Tarun Rawat, Jatin Kumar & Rajesh Mehta

Delhi Unchanged, People Short-Changed

CAPITULATION: Waterlogged Roads On Day 1 Itself Ominous

Siddhanta Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The residence of Public Works Department minister Atishi was flooded by rains on Friday. What more telling statement could there be to negate the civic authorities' claims about monsoon preparedness. Whether the drainage systems were being maintained by PWD, MCD, NDMC or DDA, they all failed to cope with the torrential rains.

Many vehicles were stalled in the waterlogged streets and water entered the houses in many areas. The various official agencies received over 300



calls to complain about waterlogging across the city. At least 21 people were rescued by Delhi Fire Service from a bus stuck under the Azadpur bridge early in the morning. Three fire tenders were able to bring out the bus passengers to safety.

Areas affected by the floods last year, such as ITO, Mathura Road, Pragati Maidan and Ring Road between Shanti Van and Kashmere Gate reported heavy flooding till late evening, indicating a lack of effective measures to prevent the recurrence of last year's inundation.

"The rainfall was intense and some pumps malfunctioned, but in most cases, waterlogging was cleared quickly. Only in some areas did the waterlogging last for more than five hours," said a PWD official. PWD field units reported

129 deluged locations, with 35 claimed to have been managed within 30 minutes, 29 in around an hour and 25 by two hours. However, at 35 locations, the situation was hopeless up to five hours and at five, beyond five hours.

The VIP Lutysens' some managed by NDMC also witnessed largescale accumulation of water. Videos on social media showed ministers and MPs struggling their way to Parliament. Govt officials attributed the worrying situation in central and south Delhi areas to the backflow from the Barapullah drain. Portions of Defence Colony, Vasant Kunj, Jangpura, New Delhi Railway Station, IGI Airport Terminal 1, Dwarka Sector 23, Vir Banda Bairagi Marg, Inderlok, Old Rohtak Road and Zakhira underpass were flooded.

An NDMC official claimed, "Our management was fine, since MCD drains hadn't been properly desilted, there was backflow of water in NDMC areas. But quick response teams responded in time to most of the complaints." Chief secretary Naresh Kumar, who is holding additional charge of DMC, visited the control room in the morning to take stock of the situation.

MCD mayor Shelly Oberoi held an emergency meeting with officials and zonal deputy commissioners about the waterlogging. She directed the officials to focus on major inundation points and the vulnerable spots in all the municipal zones. "Special attention should be given to locations that are more susceptible to waterlogging. A list of such locations should be provided to the mayor's office," Oberoi ordered.

She also directed officials to coordinate with all Delhi agencies, such as PWD, Delhi Jal Board, flood & irrigation department, to address all the complaints related to rainwater at the ground level.

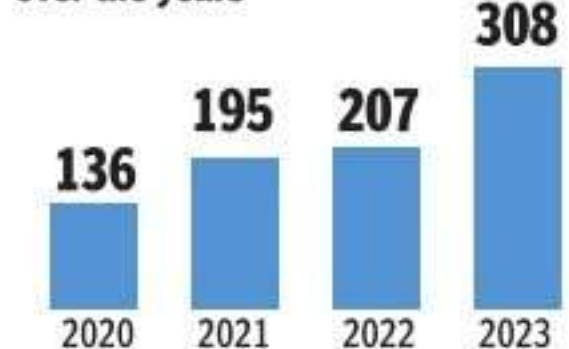
MAJOR ISSUES WATERLOGGING, TRAFFIC SNARLS, ROAD SINK, FALLING OF TREES, GETTING AMBULANCE

WATERLOGGING COMPLAINTS

68 major locations, 308 other areas also waterlogged

320 No. of complaints received by PWD, NDMC and MCD

Number of waterlogging hotspots over the years



SOME AREAS UNDER WATER

- 1 Minto Bridge
- 2 Connaught Place
- 3 Pragati Maidan tunnel and underpasses
- 4 Defence Colony
- 5 CR Park
- 6 Vasant Kunj
- 7 Rajghat
- 8 Red Fort area
- 9 Tilak Marg railway underpass
- 10 Sadar Bazar
- 11 Jangpura Extension
- 12 Pandhara Road
- 13 Ashoka Road

- 14 Akbar Road
- 15 AIIMS flyover
- 16 Green Park
- 17 South Extension 2
- 18 Ghazipur toll point
- 19 Azad market underpass
- 20 Mayur Vihar, Phase 2
- 21 Zakhira
- 22 Shahpur Jat
- 23 Pul Prahladpur
- 24 Several areas in Dwarka

TREES

15 complaints of broken branches, uprooted trees in NDMC areas

12 complaints from MCD areas



MEHRAULI-BADARPUR ROAD



NEAR SUPREME COURT METRO STATION



REASONS

- > Very high rainfall in very short duration
- > Barapullah drain flowing at a very high level, impacting south and central Delhi
- > Backflow from many stormwater and smaller drains despite desilting
- > Water getting into low-lying areas with no way to escape
- > Many DJB sewer lines overflow
- > Underground sumps overwhelmed
- > Malfunctioning of pumps
- > Desilting pending

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Total length of drains (more than 4ft deep) in Delhi: 3,740.3 km

- > PWD has 2,064km (55%), 85% desilted
- > MCD has 713 drains, 94% desilted
- > NDMC has drains spreading over 471km, desilting ongoing
- > DDA has 382km of roadside drains, desilting ongoing

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

FOR WATERLOGGING/FLOODING, FALLING OF TREES, ETC
 PWD 011-23490323, 1800110093, WhatsApp Chatbot: 8130188222
 MCD 011-23230700, 155303
 NDMC 23348300/23348301
 DDA flood control 011-23378258

DJB 1916
Irrigation flood control
 011-22428773, 22428774

SOLUTIONS PROPOSED

- > Implementation of IIT Delhi's Drainage Master Plan 2018
- > Last drainage master plan for Delhi was prepared in 1976, when the population of Delhi was 60 lakh. It is yet to be revamped
- > Upgrading drainage in Najafgarh basin | Under process
- > Drainage upgradation at Barapullah and Trans-Yamuna basin | Yet to begin
- > Speeding up the desilting process
- > Fixing the malfunctioned pumps and other systems

RESCUE Civil Defence 011- 22501669, 23238001 | **DDMA** 1077 | **Emergency** 112 | **Fire** 101 | **Traffic police** 011-25844444, 1095 | **DMRC helpline** 155370

No light at the end of tunnel as usual suspects submerged again

Siddhanta Mishra
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New Delhi: On Friday, the Minto Road underpass in New Delhi once again reverted to its image as the emblem of official inefficiency, drowned in rainwater and inaccessible to road users. The Public Works Department had tom-tommed its success at monsoon management by showcasing the unaffected underpass in the past two monsoons, but Friday proved the problem had resurfaced.

A PWD official admitted, "Our systems couldn't handle so much rain in such a short spell. There was also the problem of a DJB drain overflowing near the site causing a lot of water to accumulate in the low-lying spot." DJB officials denied the claims made by PWD.

The Minto Road underpass, located at the junction between Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg and Connaught Place, has been identified as a Top 10 waterlogging hotspots of

the city. Following the death of a 56-year-old man in 2020 when his truck was submerged at the underpass, certain provisions were initiated to prevent govt from facing the annual embarrassment at the underpass. In 2021, two drains were built and connected to an underground sump beside the Minto road pump house. However, these measures proved ineffective, and traffic police had to close the infamous underpass on Friday to prevent major incidents.

The Pragati Maidan transit corridor, consisting of one main tunnel and six underpasses, has also become a significant problem for govt agencies. PWD, which currently manages the network, has pointed out problems existing inside the tunnel on several occasions. Officials cited two main reasons for the latest episode of waterlogging inside the tunnel: rainwater entering from the underground parking due to seepage in the walls and PWD using the tunnel as a 'drain' to

dispose of the accumulated water on Mathura Road in front of the VIP area there.

During the construction of the Pragati Maidan tunnel, several measures had been taken to prevent waterlogging inside the tunnel. However, in the rainy season last year, the tunnel was flooded for several days, despite arrangements like roofs on the ramps of the tunnel entrance, stormwater drains and underground sumps to handle excess water. The tunnel, associated with Bharat Mandapam, the main venue of the G20 summit in September last year, is considered a project of national importance. And yet, the measures taken to prevent it being inundated haven't proved sufficient to prevent waterlogging and being closed to traffic for several days this year.

Given the lapses plaguing the tunnel system, PWD had sent a Rs500-crore legal notice on infra giant L&T, holding it responsible for the poor construction work on the transit corridor. It said in its notice

that "serious technical deficiencies" had led to consequent damages and inadequacies. Two months ago, an expert committee submitted a 20-point report to lieutenant governor VK Saxena highlighting the problems in the tunnel and the possible solutions involving the assistance of other govt departments.

It wasn't just the Pragati Maidan tunnel, but also roads around Bharat Mandapam that faced submergence on Friday. PWD officials said Bhairon Marg, Purana Qila Road, Bhagwan Das Road and Mathura Road were waterlogged after the heavy showers early in the morning. The W-point at ITO Skywalk also remained flooded for several hours. According to officials, the regulator drain No. 12 A, which caters to Mathura Road, Supreme Court and the surrounding area, was clogged with accumulated silt. This caused problems in removing the rainwater from the locations even after deploying motor pumps.

Photos: Tarun Rawat



MINTO BRIDGE



TILAK BRIDGE

First day, first show-ers a deluge, 'orange' alert for next two days

Continued from P1

Appointments were called off and many who ventured out in their cars were soon stranded in the swirling waters.

Hospitals turned into no-go areas and those headed for the airport to catch a domestic flight soon discovered a tragedy had unfolded there with a canopy coming unstuck and killing a cab driver around 5am. That disrupted the flight schedule.

Weather scientists said that interaction of different weather systems had led to the high-intensity rain and cautioned that Sunday could see a repeat. The rain had been accompanied by a thunderstorm and strong, gusty winds.

"The extreme rain which inundated a large part of the city was due to monsoon trough passing directly over Delhi, one cyclonic circulation over UP and another over Punjab and adjoining areas. This fed additional moisture to the region. The interaction of these weather systems happened over Delhi which led to extreme rain," said Mahesh Palawat, vice chairman, meteorology and climate change, Skymet. The maximum rainfall, 148.5mm, was recorded between 2.30am and 5.30 am, and 74.4mm between 5.30am and 8.30am, on Friday. An additional 5.2mm was recorded between 8.30am and 11.30am Thursday, making the cumulative 24-hour rainfall 228.1mm.

Palam recorded 106.6mm of rainfall, Lodhi Road 192.8mm and the Ridge area 150.4mm. The showers brought about a sharp drop in

temperature. The maximum temperature at Safdarjung was recorded at 32.5 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal and lowest since May 1 against 35.4 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 24.7 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal as against 28.6 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

After 8.30am on Friday, Safdarjung along with most of the areas recorded only a drizzle or trace level rain that

is too less to be recorded. Palam recorded an additional 0.4mm and Lodhi Road 1mm.

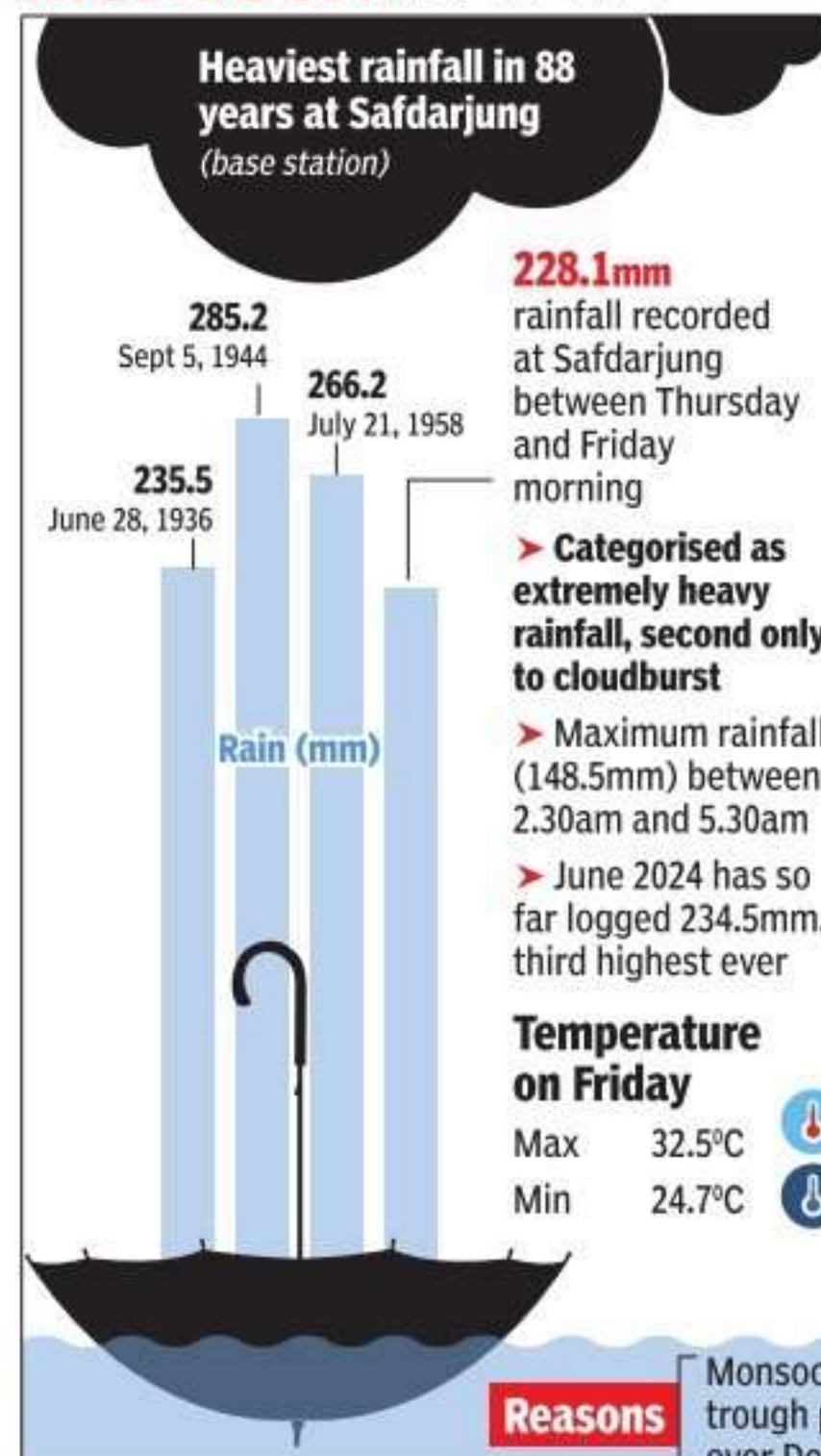
An IMD statement later said that the southwest monsoon had advanced into more parts of west Rajasthan, remaining parts of east Rajasthan, some parts of Haryana, entire Delhi, some more parts of western and eastern UP and remaining parts of MP, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar. It added that conditions are favourable

for the monsoon to advance further into Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh during the next two-three days.

The weather department expects the downpour to continue and has issued an orange alert for moderate to heavy rain on Saturday and heavy to very heavy rain on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the air quality of the city continued to be satisfactory with AQI of 64 against 79 a day earlier.

MONSOON IS HERE



8th 100mm+ rain day in 4 years

	June	July	Aug	Sept
2024	1			
2023	0	2	0	0
2022	0	1	0	0
2021	0	1	1	2

Forecast

Saturday | Moderate to heavy rainfall (15.6mm to 115.5mm) | Orange alert
 Max 32 degrees, min 25 degrees

Sunday | Heavy to very heavy rainfall (64.5mm to 204.4mm) | Orange alert
 Max 30 degrees, min 26 degrees

Yellow or orange alert for rain till July 4

Caught by surprise

- > IMD has earlier predicted light to moderate rainfall for Friday
- > Monsoon arrival was predicted around June 30
- > Nowcast was issued a few hours prior to the rain



Photo: Tarun Rawat

Delhi brakes down, underpasses are worst hit

Devanshi Mehta
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New Delhi: Traffic was thrown out of gear across the city on Thursday after heavy rains in the morning. Vehicles were stuck or unable to cross the deluged underpasses, their way forward was blocked by fallen trees or the traffic was too slow due to flooding for comfortable driving. Moreover, numerous trucks, buses and cars broke down. A towing service in Delhi-NCR confirmed receiving over 250 SOSes.

Delhi Traffic Police officers said that 68 major locations and 308 other places faced congestion due to severe waterlogging. The figures suggested a higher trend compared with the previous year. Traffic police personnel were seen standing in knee-deep water at several places, trying their best to streamline traffic but the situation seemed beyond their control.

The interconnected nature of Delhi's areas, with numerous underpasses and flyovers, created a domino effect and the arterial roads were gridlocked for lengthy periods. The flooded

Okhla underpass caused congestion on both the carriageways from Kalindi Kunj towards Crown Plaza and vice-versa, impacting Nehru Place, Chittaranjan Park, Sarita Vihar and Jasola Vihar. Similarly, waterlogging under the Dhaura Kuan flyover affected roads from Naraina towards Moti Bagh and vice-versa, as well as Chanakya-puri, South Campus and Delhi Cantonment.

For a couple of years, Minto Bridge was showcased as progress after the otherwise perennially submerged road stretch remained unaffected by the rains in the past two seasons. On Thursday, however, it went under again, causing severe inconvenience to motorists to or from Kamla Market towards Connaught Place, ITO and New Delhi Railway Station. Indraprastha Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg and Vikas Marg were affected due to waterlogging and vehicle breakdowns at intersection below Tilak Bridge.

Aurobindo Marg experienced severe traffic jams on both its carriageways from INA towards AIIMS and vice-versa due to waterlogging under the AI-



Traffic was largely reduced to one side of the road on Vikas Marg

IMS flyover. South Extension, Defence Colony, Bhikaji Cama Place and Green Park were consequently affected by the bottleneck effect.

Outer Ring Road was similarly jammed on both the carriageways between Shanti Van and ISBT due to waterlogging near Salimgarh Fort and Nigamodh Ghat. Vir Banda Baira Marg was also impacted by waterlogging at the Azad Market underpass.

Citizens sought help on social media, especially those who were stuck for more than three hours near Dwarka Sector 9. East Delhi residents also had a harrowing time with heavy traffic jams at Geeta Colony Ring Road. People also reported massive traffic jams on NH-48, grumbling that they had to spend over an hour on a 4km stretch between Gurgaon-Delhi border and Mahipalpur.

The closure of the Pragati

Maidan tunnel caused a major gridlock on Mathura Road and adjacent thoroughfares. Further down, near Tughlaqabad metro station, waterlogging halted traffic for a long time on the way from Badarpur to Sarita Vihar.

The Dwarka Expressway towards Police Station Sector 23 was also affected. Traffic was impacted on both sides of the road taking motorists from Akshardham to Ghaziabad and in the opposite direction due to the roundabout at Murga Mandi, Ghazipur, being flooded.

A Mayur Vihar resident travelling to Parliament House was exasperated by a 3-hour journey for one that usually takes only 45 minutes because of congestion on the Nizamuddin bridge. The motorist resident noted that truck breakdowns and the absence of traffic police officers contributed to the problem. Another commuter had to return home halfway to work due to the road chaos between Akshardham and ITO bridge. "Cars returning and mismanagement of traffic caused severe problems," the frustrated individual said. "Things were terrible in Geeta Colony."

Claims On Desilting Drown With Capital Supervision Missing Amid Govt-Officers Tussle



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The first spell of monsoon rain brought misery to the people of Delhi and NCR which saw massive waterlogging, proving that claims by various agencies of desilting the drains have remained on paper.

Due to the ongoing tussle between the elected dispensation and the bureaucracy, supervision over agencies involved in cleaning the drains seemed to be missing and the work that should have been completed by June 15 fell abysmally short.

The incidents of vehicles submerging in rainwater, streets clogged and traffic struggling to move have belied MCD's claims that it was prepared for the rains and that most drains had been desilted.

In a meeting held on June 20 to take stock of monsoon preparedness last week, various agencies gave reports of drains they had managed to clean till that date. Of the 1,037 drains along its 1,400-km road network, the Public Works Department had managed to complete the cleaning of 85% till last week. Of the 22 major drains that chan-

nel water to the Yamuna, barely 50% had been cleaned till last week and at locations 70% cleaning had been registered.

Till June 20, MCD had completed 92% of the desilting work in drains that were more than four feet deep, according to mayor Shelly Oberoi. NDMC had barely managed to complete 70% of the work.

Delhi urban development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had on June 11 sought a report from the Delhi chief secretary on the desilting work, which led to a war of words between the two. In a note to the chief secretary on June 13, Bharadwaj said he had sought an exhaustive list of all desilted drains from various agencies on June 11 but failed to get an update even after two days.

The chief secretary, however, said he had already informed the minister on June 5 that the issue of waterlogging had been actively considered by Delhi High Court. He added that all departments concerned were regularly submitting action-taken reports to the integrated drain management cell, which was forwarding those reports to the court. The chief secretary also mentioned that a huge

amount of silt was collected from the drains, which was nearly one-sixth of the legacy waste at the Ghazipur landfill site. A place was needed for dumping the silt and the official sought guidance from the elected dispensation.

A source said after multiple follow-ups with the chief secretary, the minister on June 20 got the list of drains that were claimed to have been desilted. When the minister got some of them cross-checked in his own constituency on June 22 and 23, it was found that most were not cleaned.

"During the emergency meeting today (Friday), the urban development minister showed photographs of those drains, which the PWD in its report had claimed to have cleaned but were still full of silt. He pulled up the PWD secretary because something similar had happened last year too and asked the chief secretary to act on the matter. The minister mentioned that it was the job of the contractors to desilt drains and the department just had to supervise. If that does not happen and the completion certificate is given, then it is simply an act of corruption," the source said.

LG, govt swing into action to salvage situation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena and Delhi govt functionaries held separate meetings with officials to review the situation arising out of waterlogging due to intense rain that hit the city early on Friday.

While Saxena took a serious note of the lack of an emergency response system and issued a slew of directions to various govt agencies to prevent a repeat of it, AAP govt announced setting up of a control room and deployment of quick response teams to clear waterlogging.

Raj Niwas said LG observed that despite monsoon reaching Delhi, the desilting work was yet to be completed and the annual flood control order, which contains the details of all roads, vulnerable locations and control rooms of various departments, was yet to be issued. "It is shocking that the flood control order and desilting of drains that should have been issued and completed by June 15 are yet pending," Saxena posted on X.

After the review meeting, LG issued

directions to the departments of public works and irrigation and flood control, Delhi Jal Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council to ensure immediate steps for easing the situation and strictly implement measures to mitigate recurrence. The meeting was also attended by officials of Delhi Police, Delhi Development Authority and National Disaster Response Force.

Saxena issued instructions to set up a 24x7 emergency control room where senior officials from all departments concerned should be deputed. AAP govt also issued similar directions and said senior PWD officials, along with the officers of other stakeholder departments, would be deployed in the control room to monitor waterlogging.

Delhi govt announced that the public can report any instance of waterlogging by calling 1800110093 or by WhatsApp on 8130188222.

Testing of static pumps and making them functional; deployment of a matrix of field staff 24x7 for running them; using mobile pumps on a need basis; and procurement and deployment of additional pumps in low lying areas such as unauthorised colonies, underpasses and tunnels were some of the directions issued by LG.

"Saxena also directed to complete the desilting of drains on an emergent basis over the next one week. He directed the traffic police to issue regular advisories in case of waterlogging at critical locations and share the details of such spots with agencies concerned and the central control room," said an official. Similar instructions were issued by AAP govt.

"The chief secretary will review this list along with all the departments and give necessary instructions. A list of areas where multiple agencies are involved will also be prepared and monitored continuously,"

Delhi urban development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

The power department has been asked to make sure there are no naked wires prone to short circuit in the jurisdiction of various discoms.

After the meeting at Delhi Secretariat, PWD minister Atishi said it was the first time since 1936 that Delhi had received 228 mm of rainfall in 24 hours, which was 25% of the total rainfall the city receives during monsoon. "Due to such unexpected rain, there was a problem of waterlogging at many places. Due to high water flow, drains were overflowing for several hours," Atishi said.

Apart from setting up of a control room, the ministers directed all departments to inspect permanent and mobile water pumps and ensure they were ready to drain out water. In a statement, govt said that every department was also asked to form a quick response team to be deployed to remove waterlogging at the ground level. DJB has been asked to install recycler in every zone to fix large-scale blockages in stormwater drains.

Despite series of HC directions, agencies failed to correct course

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Friday's deluge that submerged the national capital has raised a question mark on claims and assurances given to Delhi High Court by multiple authorities on waterlogging and desilting of drains.

Senior officials of Delhi govt, Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council may have some explaining to do next month when the court takes stock of progress in dealing with waterlogging/drainage, rainwater harvesting, restoration and rejuvenation of the Yamuna floodplain and interconnection of stormwater drains.

Last month, chief secretary Naresh Kumar had conveyed to an HC bench, which was headed by acting Chief Justice Manmohan, about "satisfactory progress" in dealing with three major waterlogging points in the city. The chief secretary submitted that work at Karala Kanjhawala had been

completed while at Loni Road, 98% work had been done. Desilting has been started near Zakhi flyover, he added.

Conceding slow progress in tackling 200 waterlogging locations identified by Delhi Traffic Police last year, he assured the court that several measures were being taken.

Delhi govt had also told the court that the irrigation and flood control department had been identified as the "one single department" entrusted with the responsibility, management and operations of the 22 open drains, which are out-falling in the Yamuna.

The court has already fixed June 30 for agencies to make public the findings of a third-party audit of all projects related to water management being carried out in the city.

In several hearings over the last six months, the court cautioned Delhi govt, DDA and MCD to prepare the city for monsoons. It flagged several gaps in tackling waterlogging after the chief secretary

gave a virtual presentation on the aspects of waterlogging, drainage master plan and rainwater harvesting. The court had then directed him to deploy a single agency, adding that lack of coordination among multiple authorities made the issue very challenging.

Citing the example of waterlogging on Mathura Road, the court remarked that several agencies, including MCD, PWD and NDMC, were involved for just a one-kilometre stretch.

The court is dealing with two suo motu petitions on the waterlogging problem and the issue of rainwater harvesting and easing traffic jams during monsoon and other periods. It had earlier directed the chief secretary and finance secretary to appear before it virtually and explain how they intended to tackle the issue of waterlogging.

The court had earlier lamented that the drainage system in the city was "absolutely pathetic" and in a "very bad state" and asked authorities to wake up and act.

Rain cripples medical services at hospitals, many surgeries put off at AIIMS and LNJP

Anuja Jaiswal
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New Delhi: Medical facilities across the city were affected by the early morning downpour on Friday, with many surgeries being postponed at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lok Nayak Hospital.

At least 50% of the surgeries at AIIMS were cancelled due to waterlogging in the basements of the trauma centre and Cardiothoracic Neurosciences Centre (CNC), where electric panels are located. Many parking areas also got flooded.

AIIMS' National Centre for Ageing (NCA), which was inaugurated in Dec 2023 by Union health minister, got flooded and rainwater seeped into the room where the CT scan machine was kept. The traffic movement in the tunnel connecting the trauma centre to the main AIIMS building was also disrupted, forcing patients to be transported by the main road. The tunnel was inaccessible till the evening.

The trauma centre had to cancel more than 12 routine surgeries. Due to excessive moisture near electric panels, the authorities decided to suspend all surgical procedures to prevent the risk of electric shock. Officials said the engineering department's approval would be required before proceeding with any scheduled night-time surgery. The situation was further complicated as the pumps installed to remove excess water also didn't function properly.

Doctors said that no critical surgery was scheduled and patients requiring immediate surgeries were transferred to the emergency red area. Some operation theat-



RAIN RAVAGED: The basement of AIIMS Trauma Centre was flooded; (right) water leaks inside OPD lift and parking area



res even experienced minor water seepage.

The power supply was disrupted in many areas, including wards and OPDs. In several buildings, air conditioning units were not functional, causing discomfort to patients and staff. Many blood donors left without donating due to the suffocating conditions in enclosed spaces.

The basement of the CNC building was flooded with knee-deep water, rendering three elevators inoperable. According to a notice issued

by the acting head of the neurosurgery department, its OTs were non-functional due to the breakdown of the air-conditioning system and water seepage from the walls. Several patients were sent to either Safdarjung or other govt hospitals, said officials.

Prof Rima Dada, who is in charge of AIIMS' media cells, said, "As a precautionary measure, surgeries were suspended due to waterlogging in the basements. Surgeries will resume as soon as the system is managed."

Several surgeries were also postponed at Lok Nayak Hospital due to the delayed arrival of the surgical and anaesthesia teams. According to the hospital, at least five surgeries, two of which were major, had to be cancelled.

The area leading to the emergency department at RML Hospital also got flooded, resulting in difficulties for patients and their companions attempting to access the medical facility. According to doctors, the water receded in two hours.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Know the FACT, It's time to ACT


Stop the Mosquito Attack!

Prevent the Spread of Diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya and Malaria


Protect your family by taking following measures




Don't allow water to accumulate in your vicinity as mosquitoes breed in stagnant water



Change water kept for birds & animals every two days




Regularly change the water of indoor plants



It is advisable to wear full sleeves clothes before stepping out




Do not leave open plastic and coconut shells in the open



Use mosquito net or mosquito repellents tools



Cover the Overhead tank Properly and Don't let water tanks overflow



Make cooler empty and dry every week

Note: Mosquito breeding in your premises will also lead to legal action as per the provisions under relevant sections of the New Delhi Municipal Council (Malaria & other Mosquito-borne diseases) bye-laws 2007

NDMC 311
NDMC 311 App

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
TO BE THE GLOBAL BENCHMARK FOR A CAPITAL CITY

For further information, call **NDMC's 24x7 Helpline Number 1533**

T-1 Grounded, Around 130 Flights Cancelled

Services Likely To Remain Suspended Indefinitely At Terminal ‘Thunder-like clap, flying glass & chaos’

Priyangi Agarwal & Saurabh Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Flight operations from T-1 were indefinitely suspended on Friday after a portion of the front portico canopy collapsed early morning.

About 128 flights were cancelled. The aviation ministry said “flights to and from Terminal 1 have been closed till further notice.”

On average, about 200 flights of IndiGo and SpiceJet operate from T1. IndiGo has the larger share of flights. All arrivals and departures have been moved to T-2 and T-3.

The shuttle service from Delhi Aerocity Metro station to Terminal 1-IGI Airport has also been suspended.

Many passengers reported feeling hassled and most learnt that their flights had been cancelled after reaching the airport. Some had come from neighbouring states too.

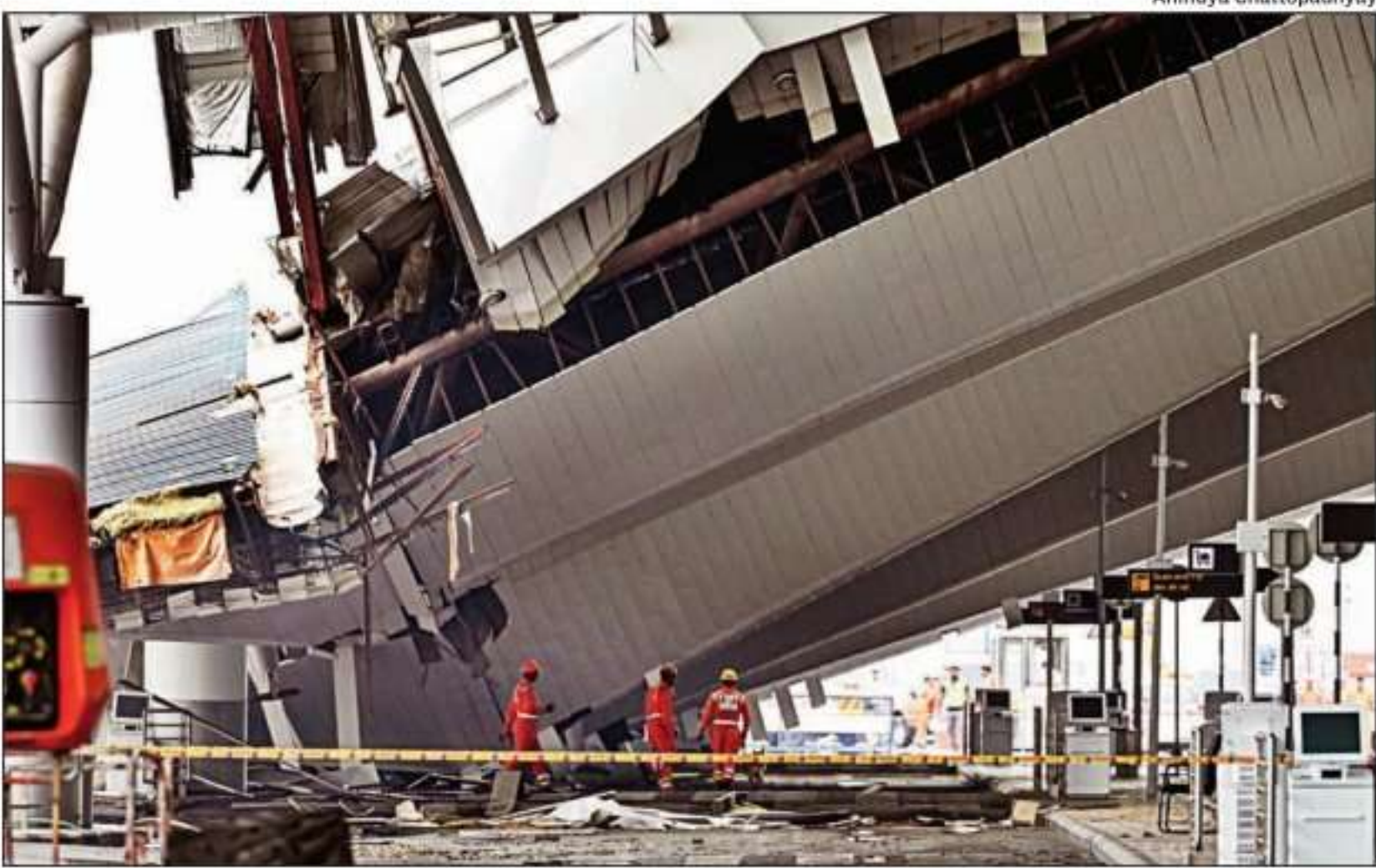
Soon after the accident, the check-in counters at the T-1 departure were shut. Arrivals at T-1 continued till 10.30am, but were shifted to the other terminals after that. However, passengers kept coming to T-1 till Friday noon.

This is the last weekend of the summer holidays when peak travel is expected, so airlines have warned of chaos amid the sudden change in operations.

While aviation authorities have set up a “war room” of sorts to minimise disruptions, the sheer volume of traffic that T-1 handled means flyers are in for turbulence on the ground at IGI.

Following an inspection of the accident site, Union minister for civil aviation Ram Mohan Naidu directed the creation of a “war room” for overseeing operations at T-2 and T-3. Being the second largest terminal (as of now) of India’s busiest airport, suspension of operations at T-1 will impact flight schedules across airline networks.

On Friday morning, when Pujitha Dronadul and her fiancé Vinod Kumar reached T-1, they learnt from media persons that all operations had been suspended. “We didn’t get any message or call or email



An NDRF team inspects the spot where a portion of canopy collapsed on Friday

from the airline about our flight status. We checked out of the hotel as we were supposed to return home,” Pujitha said.

Another passenger, Ritesh Yadav, who had booked a flight to Bagdogra, waited at T-1 for nearly an hour as he had no clue about his flight status. “I came from Jhajjar, Haryana, to board my flight. However, no airline staff was present to inform us,” Yadav, who finally left for home, said.

Sarda Mahapatra, a private sector executive, roamed around in T-1 to get updates on his flight to Bhubaneswar. “I got a message from the airline that my flight was delayed and would depart at 11am and not at 9.25am. I am waiting to know if my flight will depart in the evening or tomorrow,” Mahapatra, who was going to Bhubaneswar for a vacation, said.

Neeno Kaur was scheduled to fly to Mumbai on a 11am flight as her daughter will be felicitated at an event on Saturday. “Before leaving home, I learnt about the canopy collapse. Since my 11am flight was cancelled, I booked another flight which was to depart at 3.15pm. I completed my web check-in around 11.15am. However, when I reached the airport around 1pm, I learnt that all operations from T-1 had been suspended,” said Kaur, who later went to T-3, only to be told there that her flight had been

cancelled. “My daughter is getting an award, and I don’t know if I will be able to make it,” the disappointed mum said.

Some passengers said the airlines gave them two options — a refund or a rescheduling of the flight. Asif Ali, who had booked a flight to Bengaluru for a business meeting, said, “After my flight was cancelled, I received the message from the airline and I opted for a refund. I have rescheduled my Friday meeting and will now take another flight on Saturday.”

A SpiceJet spokesperson said, “All passengers affected by today’s flight disruptions were proactively informed by the airline via phone and email. Notifications about flight changes were sent to the contact details provided at the time of booking.”

IndiGo said the accident “has led to flight cancellations at Delhi as passengers are not able to enter the terminal. Passengers already inside the terminal will be able to board their planned flights, but those with flights later in the day will be offered alternatives. This unplanned situation has also led to operations across the network being impacted. Customers are advised to keep a track of and confirm their flight status before leaving for the airport. IndiGo passengers can

call 0124 6173838 or 0124 4973838 to seek assistance regarding their travel plans. We regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers.”

Friday alone saw 116 IndiGo flights get cancelled. The airline and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) are trying to see how many of IndiGo’s over 130 flights from T1 can be shifted to the other terminals. “This is a crazy situation with everyone trying to add more flights to the two terminals already operating to capacity,” a source said.

The crunch has come at a time when T-1’s capacity was to rise exponentially with its expanded portion about to open to public. Now, it remains to be seen, when the portion opens. “DIAL will now have to drop its plan of closing T-2 anytime soon. We need to have T-1 fully operational — both the new and old portions — before that can be done,” an airline official said.

Before Friday’s accident, IGI could have handled 7.4 crore passengers annually. The break-up of capacity was — T-1: 1.7 crore passenger annually or CPA (all domestic); T-2: 1.5 CPA (all domestic) and T-3: 4.2 CPA (domestic and international). T-1’s capacity was to increase to 4.5 CPA with the opening of the expanded portion. But now, capacity has fallen sharply.

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New Delhi: Santosh Yadav had dropped a Navy officer at the IGI T-1 terminal and was waiting to pick up another officer when he heard what seemed like a thunder clap before lightning in the middle of Friday’s downpour. Then a portion of the terminal canopy started breaking away. Santosh ran for life, but before he could make a clean escape, something hit him hard on the head.

The 28-year-old is now recovering from a head injury at his home in Lado Sarai. “The sound was like before lightning strikes, and suddenly the structure started crumbling,” Santosh, one of the eyewitnesses to the T-1 horror, said on Friday morning.

“People were clicking pictures with their loved ones, and water droplets were falling from the roof,” Santosh said, describing the scene moments before the canopy section came crashing down on waiting cars and people. “I, along with other people, was waiting. I tried to save



CLOSE SHAVE: Dasher Ahirwar (25) and Arvind Goswami (34)



myself, but something hit my head. Somehow, I reached a safe place,” he said.

Chaos descended with the canopy. People were heard waiting for help.

Arvind Goswami (34), who has four stitches on his head in an ESIC Hospital in Basai Darapur, was among the injured. He works in the hospitality department and was mopping up water when shards of glass flew at him. “Suddenly there was a loud sound. We didn’t have the time to figure out what had happened. I don’t remember much after that,” he said. Goswami said he hadn’t told his

wife about the accident. “She would panic. That’s why I haven’t told her,” he said.

Dasher Ahirwar (25), who also got injured by the flying glass, could barely whisper. “I received injuries to my head,” he said. As soon as he saw a part of the canopy collapsing, Dasher tried to run away. “It was like a scene straight out of a nightmare,” he said.

Airline staff and loaders aided the distressed passengers. They provided water, took them to a designated area, assisted foreign passengers and helped disperse them peacefully.

Another eyewitness, Anil

Kumar, an employee of a private cab service, said he heard “a loud crashing sound”. “When I came out of my office to check, I saw the canopy of the forecourt had collapsed. Around 6-7 cars were buried under it. Fortunately, the passengers were mostly away from where the part of the canopy had fallen. There was chaos.”

“When the crash happened, several people were at T-1. Airport staff and passengers tried to help out those who were buried under the structure. CISF and other agencies also reached there, and the injured were immediately moved to hospitals,” Anil said.

A head constable at the scene mentioned that rescuers broke car windows to extricate passengers trapped inside cabs. The situation was horrific since there were at least 100 people near the spot. If the structure had collapsed suddenly, there would have been more casualties, but it first tilted and then fell, giving some people time to escape. “A family from Gujarat suffered minor injuries,” he said.

Who is to blame? Parties point fingers at each other

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party demanded a compensation of Rs one crore to the family of the person who was killed when a canopy collapsed at the Delhi airport on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP functionary Jasmine Shah sought a CBI probe into all central govt infrastructure projects. Shah said BJP-led Centre should come forward and explain the reasons for the incident.

He added that a compensation of Rs 50 lakh should be given to those who were injured. While AAP alleged that the terminal where the canopy collapsed was inaugurated on March 10, airport officials clarified this section was constructed in 2009. The Delhi BJP also said that the structure was built in 2009 and AAP should question their alliance partner Congress about it.

Shah said the roof of the newly built Jabalpur domestic airport terminal in Madhya Pradesh also collapsed on Thursday. “Many people were injured in that accident too,” Shah said. The AAP functionary further alleged that cracks appeared in the 21km long Atal Setu connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai in Ma-

harashtra within six months of its inauguration. “BJP govt at the Centre hastily inaugurated all incomplete projects before the announcement of elections,” Shah alleged.

Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, in a separate press conference, alleged leakage was also reported in the sanctum sanctorum of Ayodhya’s recently-built Ram Mandir. He said the incident of “roof collapse” at the Delhi airport was “shameful”.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Friday called the incident as emblematic of decade-long “corruption” and “criminal negligence” that have resulted in poor infrastructure in the country which is falling like a “deck of cards”. “Our heartfelt condolences to the victims of the Delhi airport tragedy. They bore the brunt of a corrupt, inept and selfish govt,” he alleged.

Stating that the veil has lifted from BJP’s “chando lo, dhandalo” model of corruption, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, “The question is if the Prime Minister will take responsibility for these substandard construction works and this model of corruption.” TNN

Cutters used to extract cab driver, but it was too late

► Continued from P1

Atul Garg, director of Delhi Fire Service (DFS), said they had sent four fire tenders to the spot along with 20 firefighters for the rescue operation. Another fire officer added that they found that a cab had been crushed by an iron pillar and the driver was trapped in his seat and was unconscious.

“We called a crane and removed the cab. With the help of cutters, we extricated the person, who was rushed to hospital where he was unfortunately declared dead,” the officer said.

Various agencies were involved in removing the wreckage. Some of the pipes in the canopy appeared to be rusty

DIAL said in a statement that due to heavy rain and wind throughout the night, the canopy partially collapsed around 5am. While the cause of the collapse is being assessed, the primary cause seems to be continued heavy rain over a few hours, it said.

“As a precautionary measure, all flight operations from Terminal 1 have been suspended till further notice and rescheduled by the respective airlines to operate from terminals 2 and 3 until the impacted areas are restored for operations. Delhi Airport is extending all support to the impacted individuals and the family of the deceased and has announced compensation of Rs 20 lakh for his family and Rs 3 lakh each for those who received minor injuries,” said a DIAL spokesperson.

When TOI visited the spot, it found various agencies involved in removing the wreckage. Some of the pipes in the canopy appeared to be rusty.

‘Incident hasn’t just taken a life, it has shattered our family’



Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Excitement filled 23-year-old Roshni’s world till Thursday as the family was busy planning her wedding next year. Her father, Ramesh Kumar, tirelessly worked to make her dream day perfect. However, the family’s world came crashing down on early Friday when a heavy pole crushed Kumar’s cab at IGI Airport, killing him on the spot.

Ravinder (25), Kumar’s elder son, recounted to TOI the moment he had received the news. “We got a call from the airport informing us that my father had been injured,” he recalled. “Later, the devastating truth came: he had passed away and his body was taken to Safdarjung Hospital. We haven’t been allowed to see him yet.”

Ravinder vividly remembered his father’s last conversation with his younger brother at 3am. Kumar had said he was taking a passenger from Faridabad to IGI Airport, wrapping up his shift, and planning to return home. He had been driving the cab from 5pm till early morning for the past four years. “Before this, my father used to drive private vehicles,” Ravinder said, his voice filled with tears. “As my sister’s wedding approached, I also began driving the cab, juggling multiple shifts.”

Ravinder went on to share that just two months ago, they had purchased a second-hand car and they are still paying the instalments. “Now, I’m



A pole crushed Kumar’s cab at IGI Airport, killing him on the spot

VICTIM’S SON SAYS

My younger sister Bhawna (18), was very close to him, and we haven’t yet told her about the incident

not sure how we’ll manage the payments,” he admitted, his voice reflecting uncertainty and concern.

From Bundelkhand, the family lives in a rented accommodation in Rohini’s Vijay Vihar. Besides Roshni and Ravinder, Kumar left behind his wife and two more children.

“My younger sister Bhawna (18) was very close to him, and we haven’t yet told her about the incident,” Ravinder said. Bhawna recently cleared her Class XI exams, and Kumar wanted to help her prepare for competitive examinations. “This tragedy hasn’t just taken one life, it has shattered our family. Our future looks uncertain now,” Ravinder said, his voice full of grief and apprehension.

Avoid ‘steep’ fare hikes, study structural strength of all airports: Govt to airlines, airport operators

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The sudden capacity crunch at India’s biggest airport with operation suspended at its mishap-stricken T1 has led to aviation authorities advising against any “steep” hike in airfares to and from the capital. This weekend was expected to see very high traffic as summer break is ending and Delhi & NCR schools start reopening July 1 onwards. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed airlines to either make alternate travel arrangements for passengers or give full refunds within seven days.

“In view of the unfortunate incident at Terminal T1D IGI, Delhi, all airlines are advised to monitor any abnormal surge in airfares to and from Delhi and take ne-

cessary action regarding the same. Further, cancellations and rescheduling of flights due to the incident may be done without penal charges,” the ministry said in a social media post. Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu has urged airlines to “maintain fare stability to avoid passenger inconvenience.”

The ministry has asked structural engineers from IIT Delhi to “immediately assess the incident” and “further examination will be decided” on the basis of the preliminary findings of this probe. “We will conduct a thorough probe to know who is responsible for it. This is a technical issue. I cannot say at the moment what and how it happened. Technical experts will probe and give a report and then we will take decision,” minister Naidu said



Centre said it would conduct a thorough probe into the incident

after visiting the site on Friday morning.

While blaming “continued heavy rainfall” for this massive structural collapse, the GMR-backed Delhi Inter-

national Airport Ltd (DIAL) says it has formed a technical committee to “investigate the cause and give a report as soon as possible.” The airport operator has announced a

Right swipe for wrong reason: Dates fleeced of lakhs at cafes

Rajshekhhar Jha @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Afsan Parveen (25) did job hunting during the day. At night, her aspirations took a dark turn. She allegedly trapped men on dating apps like Tinder and Bumble, took them to shady, nondescript cafes, and then disappeared. For a few drinks and some snacks, the date had to pay a hefty amount to the restaurant, whose management used to be part of the plot, before they could leave.

Those who resisted were threatened with the CCTV footage showing them getting cozy with the date and fear of police. Some were even confined and thrashed before they left, broke and heartbroken.

Parveen, who was operating multiple dating accounts in fake names, is now behind bars. She was caught after a civil services aspirant filed an extortion case against his Tinder date, with whom he had gone to east Delhi’s Black Mirror. Parveen was arrested at another cafe while trying to pull off a similar scam with a man from Mumbai.

Joint commissioner Sagar Singh Kalsi said an owner of Black Mirror cafe, Akshay Pahwa, was also arrested. “The hunt is on for other accused in the case, which is being investigated by inspector Sanjay Gupta’s team comprising ASI Narendra and others,” Kalsi added.

The complainant said he had been talking to Varsha for a few weeks after she swiped right on his profile on Tinder. This Monday, they were to meet as it was Varsha’s birthday. Though he had classes, a ‘see once’ picture sent by her made him bunk. She said she wanted to go to this new cafe on Vikas Marg. At Black Mirror, they barely had some snacks, cakes and shots of fruit wine, besides some drinks, that Varsha had to abruptly leave after receiving a call about an emergency at home.

The youth was taken aback when he received a bill of Rs 1.22 lakh. He was confined and beaten up in one of the cozy cabins and forced to pay up. Once out, he approached police, who tracked down Varsha and found her to be Afsan Parveen. She was

working as a ‘table manager’, a name used for operators of the scam hired by cafe managers. Out of the bill, 15% went to the operator, 45% to the manager, and 40% to the owners. Investigators found that Black Mirror was owned by two brothers, Akshay and Vansh Pahwa, and their friend Ansh. They had employed Digranshu as the manager. Special CP Ravindra Yadav has appreciated the police team’s efforts.

Such scams may now be gaining ground in Delhi, but in Europe and some other places abroad, this is a commonmodus operandi for cafe and bar owners to make extra buck by targeting tourists. Sites like Reddit, TripAdvisor and Google have numerous reviews by users sharing similar ordeals about such incidents at bars, cafes and restaurants in Switzerland, Hamburg in Germany, St Petersburg in Russia, Hungary and other places.

In India, too, similar cases have emerged in other metro cities, including Gurgoan and Noida. Last year, a west Delhi pub had come under the scanner in one such case.



STAY CAUTIOUS

- Choose a known or popular hangout for first date
- Look around for CCTVs/hidden cameras
- If the cafe looks shady, check the rates on menu and ask for any hidden charges beforehand
- Don’t choose places with cabins or partitions as a spot for first date
- If duped, report to police immediately



Afsan Parveen (25)

HOW THE SCAM UNFOLDS

- Target gets swiped right by girls having attractive display pictures on dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, etc
- Lured by ‘see once’ pictures, they meet the girl at a usually unpopular, nondescript cafe
- The cafe is usually a dark place, some have cabins or partitions too
- They order drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and some snacks or dinner
- The girl abruptly leaves after getting a call, citing an emergency at home
- Man is asked to pay a huge amount quoted as bill
- If he resists, he is threatened with CCTV footage showing him in close proximity/getting intimate with the girl on date
- Many victims assault, confined, end up paying due to social stigma, threats of footage going viral
- The extorted bill amount is divided among the girl, restaurant manager and the owner in agreed upon percentage

RAMPANT, ACROSS THE GLOBE

2024, Russia Trip Advisor users warn of this ‘secret service club’ in St Petersburg where men were taken on Tinder dates and made to pay hefty bills	2023, Hungary Man on X talks about getting a date on Tinder where he met two women at a cafe in Budapest. Had to pay 6,000 Euros for the drinks and food at the end of the night	2020, Geneva A man on Instagram writes about a girl he met on Tinder, she took him out on a date to a cafe in Switzerland and left in 15 minutes. He had to pay a bill of 750 Euros	2019, Germany Several Reddit users wrote about a club named Itaka in Hamburg where people were scammed by Tinder dates and ended up paying huge bills
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ALLERGIES IN CHILDREN: THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATION



Dr. SHALINI TYAGI
DCH MD, DNB (PEDIATRICS)
DIRECTOR: THE CHILDREN CLINIC: ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTRE, NOIDA

Among the many dangers facing our nation, air pollution is one of the most serious. The air quality index (AQI) in many Indian cities is often inferior, either during certain seasons or throughout the year. This leads to common and recurring respiratory issues, affecting children more than adults.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME STATISTICS TO UNDERSTAND THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION

Studies in India show that about 7% of children aged 6 to 7 years and 13 to 14 years experience wheezing, while 12.5% of younger and 18.6% of older children suffer from nasal symptoms. The study also found that allergic conditions like allergic rhinitis are common among Indian children due to environmental and tobacco smoke, seasonal changes, and both outdoor and indoor air pollution.

WHAT IS ALLERGIC RHINITIS?

Medical journals describe allergic rhinitis as an allergic reaction that causes sneezing, congestion, itchy nose, and watery eyes. In Indian households, this is often mistaken for a common cold and treated the same way because the symptoms overlap. This can be very dangerous.

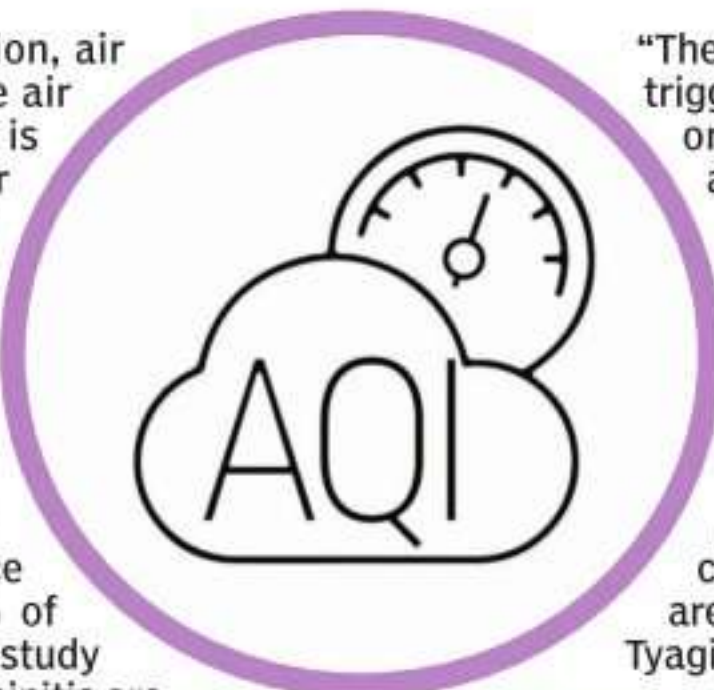
When allergic rhinitis is not treated correctly, not diagnosed, or wrongly treated with too many antibiotics, it can lead to more problems. Dr. Shalini Tyagi, DCH, MD, DNB (Pediatrics), says respiratory allergies can also lead to sinusitis, which is the swelling of the air-filled spaces in the skull. "Sinusitis causes painful symptoms like facial pain, pressure, coughing, stuffy nose, and runny nose. These symptoms can make adults uncomfortable, but they can be very hard for children. Allergic rhinitis can make the adenoids bigger, causing mouth breathing and trouble sleeping. Often, people with allergic rhinitis develop asthma, a long-term lung disease that causes shortness of breath, wheezing, and frequent hospital visits."

Therefore, it is important for those with allergies to get diagnosed by a healthcare professional or an allergist to receive the right treatment. This is even more important for children because allergy-related respiratory issues can not only cause lifelong diseases but also impact their physical, mental, cognitive, and overall development.

Dr. Tyagi, says that many times parents think of allergic reactions as a common cold due to their similar symptoms. "If a child experiences these symptoms consistently and regularly, it is important that parents take the child to a healthcare professional. Even pediatricians can direct parents toward an allergy specialist so that they can get the tests done and give the specific medication to the child. Timely and accurate diagnosis is very important while dealing with allergic reactions to save a child from future respiratory complications."

WHAT CAN CAUSE ALLERGIC RHINITIS?

Many people in India believe that allergies are caused by outdoor dust, pollen, or air pollution. This is why children are considered the most vulnerable as they spend a lot of time playing outdoors. Outdoor allergens like dust, pollen, smoke, perfume, and car exhaust can cause allergic rhinitis. However, Dr. Tyagi says that many indoor allergens such as dust mites, pet dander, animal hair or fur, and molds can also cause severe respiratory allergic reactions.



"The important thing is to identify the specific triggers of one's allergies and take preventive or precautionary measures. For outdoor allergens like dust, pollen, and smoke, one can always wear a mask (an N95 respirator mask helps best) while going outside. Protecting your home from construction dust, wind, or smoke by shutting the windows can also help a lot. Changing out of the clothes that you wore outdoors and taking a shower can help a great deal. Avoiding heavy chemical fumes, perfumes, and smoking areas can help with those triggers," says Dr. Tyagi.

HOW DOES ALLERGIC RHINITIS AFFECT CHILDREN?

Allergic rhinitis or other respiratory issues caused by allergens can greatly affect a child's quality of life. It is common in Indian households for children to miss school a few days after it reopens due to the 'common cold.' However, many healthcare professionals say that it is the seasonal transition and various allergens that cause allergic rhinitis, with its cold-like symptoms, that make children fall sick and miss school. It affects their daily life as well as their physical and mental well-being.

Dr. Tyagi adds that in more severe cases, undiagnosed or misdiagnosed allergic rhinitis can cause significant sleep disturbance. "The discomfort is so severe that even adults wake up feeling sleepy, tired, and irritable. In children, it may cause irritability, restlessness, listlessness, anxiety, and lack of energy."

Prolonged allergic rhinitis and the resulting tiredness can affect a child's physical activity in school, as sports and physical education are big parts of the curriculum. This can lead to emotional and mental disturbances in a child. In infants, prolonged or undiagnosed allergic rhinitis has been shown to impair cognition and psychomotor development.

ALLERGY MEDICATION AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN

Dr. Tyagi states that unfortunately allergic rhinitis is considered a trivial disease in India. "This is a chronic and progressive disease, which can persist throughout childhood and become critical in adulthood. Depending on need, healthcare professionals may prescribe antihistamines or intranasal corticosteroids to patients."

Antihistamines are commonly prescribed for allergies to adults and children. However, few antihistamines can cause drowsiness which can be detrimental to a child's learning capabilities and cognition. Children can become listless, low on energy and irritable. Hence, it is important to not self-medicate and reach out to a healthcare professional who can recommend an ideal antihistamine for your child.

Nasal congestion is one of the most uncomfortable symptoms of an allergy. It can cause discomfort while sleeping, leading to restlessness and irritability in children. Nasal Sprays can offer symptomatic relief in such cases.

RESISTING ALLERGIES IN CHILDREN

Stating some strategies to help parents navigate the allergy season, Dr. Tyagi says that keeping an eye on the pattern of reactions to recognize the trigger is important. "Usually dust mites, seasonal pollens, fungal spores, pet dander, or insect sheddings cause allergic rhinitis. However, parents need to track the timing and pattern so that they can let the healthcare professional know. They can then direct the parents to the correct tests and diagnosis."

Dr. Tyagi affirms that among the many tests available in the market, the Skin Prick Allergy test is the most common to detect allergens causing respiratory distress in children. "After parents are notified of the specific allergen, not only can the healthcare professional prescribe the specific medication for children, but also help the parents with restrictive measures to combat the said allergen. Indoor dust mites are one of the most common allergens in our country. A healthcare professional can easily direct parents in controlling that."

While humidifiers and HEPA filters are considered good ways to protect children from airborne allergens, it is not practical for every household. Indoor dust mites are usually found in our beds. Regular bedsheet changing, drying them in the sun, wet mopping of floors, keeping children away from furry toys or soft toys, etc., can help a great deal.

Dr. Tyagi adds that in case your children have reactions, many traditional methods can help relieve some distress. "Many healthcare professionals recommend traditional methods such as jalneeti or nasal washes regularly to help with nasal congestion. Taking steam and drinking warm water with a bit of ginger can also provide relief."

Though ingesting food can not cause allergic rhinitis, some food coloring or preservatives can induce respiratory distress. "Once you identify such a pattern, it is important to keep your children away from such foods," adds Dr. Tyagi.

"Ultimately the best way to combat any allergy is to take care of your immune system. Keeping it robust through a balanced and healthy diet, sufficient sleep, and regular exercise is imperative. Studies have shown that breastfed children, children exposed to animals from a young age, children born via vaginal delivery, etc., have better immunity and thereby less allergic reactions," affirms Dr. Tyagi.

CONCLUSION

We live in a world where air pollution is a harsh reality. Even with utmost care, it is nearly impossible to protect children from allergies. It is crucial not to ignore symptoms such as sneezing, a runny nose, or a blocked nose that might be triggered by exposure to specific allergens in both children and adults. It is important to track these symptoms and consult a healthcare professional at the earliest opportunity. By ensuring the right balance of recognition, information, diagnosis, treatment, and therapy along with a healthy diet, maintaining hygienic habits, and scheduling regular health checkups, we can give children a better quality of life despite their allergies.

Stop your allergies before they stop you. To read more about allergies, follow @allergyfreeindia on Instagram.

#STOPALLERGYBEFOREITSTOPSYOU

Don't take allergies lightly. Left untreated, they can spiral into serious health complications. Act now - address your symptoms immediately and stop them today, before they stop you. This article is an educational initiative, supported by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare India Ltd.

MAT-IN-2400941 v1.0 06/24

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Asansol Mechanical Divn., PHE Dept. of West Bengal, Asansol, Bengal vide Ref No. WBPHED/EE/AM/D/ NIT-04 of 2024-2025 and ID: 2024_PHE069321_1 to four different type of mechanical electrical works under Asansol Mechanical Division, PHE Dept. For details visit website <http://wbttenders.gov.in>. The last date submission of tender is 10-07-2024 upto 15.30Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Asansol Mechanical Division, PHE Dept. Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-110044(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Electrical Construction Division invites online e-Tender for the work of 'Supply of Metal Halide lamp, ignitor and ballast as replacement of defective ones for flood light fittings at Kishore Bharati Park, Jangam, Surpur park, Santoshpur, Kolkata - Purba Division, NIT No. WB/PWD/EE/EC-D/NIQ-03/2024-25, ID: 2024_WBPWD_700489_1. Last date of submission of tender is online: 03.07.2024 from 01:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 10.07.2024 upto 01.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.Q. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Electrical Construction Division ICA-110071(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/JGM/Divn/PWD, Notice invites e-Tender No. 04/3 of 2024-25 for the work: 1) Urgent potholes repair works, 2) Urgent replacement of seal coat and various maintenance works of Keshary-Nayagram Road (0.00Kmp - 11.00 Kmp) under Gobipallabpur Sub Division, PWD in the district of Jhargam, during the year 2024-25. Est. Amt.: Rs.26,26,306/-, Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700437_1. 2) Special repair works for Installation of lift at Jhargam, P.W.D. Division Building, Jhargam, during the Year of 2024-2025. Est. Amt.: Rs.21,58,77/- Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700437_2. 3) Emergency minor repair of Link Road - 0.00 Km to 2.70 Km under Jhargam, Jamboni & Parhati-Jamboni-Fekohat Road, Jhargam in the District of Jhargam. Est. Amt.: Rs.14,49,262/- Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_700437_3. Bid Submission End Date: 15.07.2024 at 16.00 for SI. No. 1 & 3 and 09.07.2024 at 16.00 for SI. No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 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2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

A Quiet Place: Day One

(Horror, Thriller) ★★☆☆
Cast: Lupita Nyong'o, Joseph Quinn, Alex Wolff
Direction: Michael Sarnoski
Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
Language: English (UA)

■ In the prequel to A Quiet Place (2018), a terminally ill woman and her cat navigate New York City when aliens with ultrasonic hearing attack.

The cacophonous NYC has an average 90-decibel noise level, equivalent to a human's scream. But to survive alien creatures with hypersensitive hearing, people must be mute—even the sound of a shirt ripping can get you killed. Samira (Lupita Nyong'o) is trapped, along with her cat Frodo, other hospice patients, and nurse Reuben (Alex Wolff). Their escape route is through the South Street Seaport, but Sam defies orders for a seemingly frivolous mission: pizza in Harlem. This chaotic journey is the heart of A Quiet Place: Day One.

Prequels typically answer lingering questions, but Day One prioritises immediate chaos and character struggles. The narrative leaves you wanting more clarity. Inconsistencies like authorities inexplicably knowing the aliens' water weakness on the first day (while the sequels portrayed several hundreds of days to work out strategies) and a sparsely populated NYC despite the global threat create plot holes.

Despite these flaws, the film delivers a gritty and bone-chilling experience. Close calls, impressive CGI, terrifying creatures, and panic-stricken characters keep you on the edge of your seat. Jump scares and moments of pure terror are plentiful. The movie falters slightly when a new survivor, Eric (Joseph Quinn), joins Sam and her cat. While the first half is thrilling, the second leans heavily on melodrama. Emotional



scenes delve into Sam's past, her pizza craving, and her connection to music—elements that, while adding depth, disrupt the pacing.

Pat Scola's cinematography is awe-inspiring. From jump scares to the apocalyptic scenes, especially close-up shots of Lupita Nyong'o, the film creates a chilling and suspenseful atmosphere.

Nyong'o delivers a stellar performance as a hardened, terminally ill woman, conveying volumes through her eyes and expressions despite being mostly silent. Joseph Quinn shines too, portraying a survivor who's both terrified and resourceful. Djimon Hounsou's brief appearance as Henri (from A Quiet Place Part II) provides the only direct connection to the main series.

A Quiet Place: Day One is a visually stunning and suspenseful thrill ride, but narrative inconsistencies and a shift in tone hold it back from reaching the heights of its predecessors. Still, fans of the franchise and those seeking a good scare will find much to enjoy.

— Dhaval Roy

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](https://www.etimes.in)

Getaway driver arrested in first breakthrough in eatery shooting

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a breakthrough in the shooting incident at Burger King outlet in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden, the Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested a key member of the syndicate who had allegedly acted as the getaway driver and ferried the shooters to the scene of crime.

The suspect, Bijender Singh, had also acted as a spotter during the shooting that ended with a man being shot 40 times inside the outlet bustling with customers. A Beretta pistol has been recovered from him, a senior police officer said.

According to additional commissioner Pramod Kushwaha, Singh had attacked their team in Faridabad in April during a pursuit. "He had tried to mow down our personnel with his vehicle. A case is registered there," he said.

Police now expect to get clues about the shooters—Ashish and Vicky—who are still at large besides their female accomplice Anu who honey-trapped the target, Aman Joon. They are being remote controlled by US-based gangsters Himanshu Bhau and Sahil Ritalia.

Investigation has revealed that the shooters have remained active even after the sensational shooting at Burger King on June 18. A few days ago, the same set of shooters carried out a similar shooting at a car showroom in Hisar, Haryana. They fired around 35 rounds there and demanded Rs 5 crore from the showroom owner.

Anu, meanwhile, has been traceless. She was last spotted at Katra railway station while boarding a Mumbai-bound train.



A man was shot 40 times inside the outlet

Singh was arrested by a team led by DCP Manoj C and ACP Rahul Singh. He came in police net when inspectors Puran Pant and Ravi Tushar received a tip about his movement in Rohini on Friday. A trap was laid, and the suspect was arrested after a high voltage chase.

During interrogation, Singh has revealed that he had reached near metro pillar number 397, Rajouri Garden on a motorcycle and met two shooters. The trio then rode on his bike to the outlet. Singh kept the bike on even as the duo went in and executed the killing. The duo rushed out and Singh then drive them away from the crime scene. Later, they parted ways.

Raiders are being conducted in Haryana, Rajasthan, UP, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa. On some occasions, the suspects narrowly escaped from being apprehended.

Pumps develop fault at Chandrawal plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Compounding the water crisis, rainwater flooded pumps at the Chandrawal water treatment plant and residents of several areas in north Delhi faced problems on Friday evening.

"Due to backflow of rainwater during heavy rain in the morning on June 26, the clear water pump house developed a major fault resulting in complete stoppage of pumping. Due to this, evening water supply from Chandrawal WW-II got affected and further water supply will remain affected on June 29 also," stated Delhi Jal Board in a notice.

DJB on Friday reported a total production of 928 MGD of water from all the treatment plants and tubewells.

The Wazirabad, Chandrawal, Okhla and Bawana plants produced less water than the actual capacity. The three major water treatment plants provide about 25% of the total drinking water supply of Delhi.

However, according to DJB officials, a proposal of smart pumps at water treatment plants to make them "flood proof" was approved last year. After the flood in July 2023 and the plants shutting down for a few days, Delhi govt had decided to come up with a safety plan.

Two teenagers rescued from traffickers, four in police net

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has rescued a 14-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy from the clutches of traffickers who deceived them with promises of employment but exploited them for child labour. Four suspects have been arrested in connection with the case, police said.

The rescued minors, including the kidnapped girl and the boy, were safely recovered from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh on June 25 under "Operation Milap", a senior

police officer said. The girl was rescued within 48 hours of her kidnapping.

On June 24, a resident of Shahjahanpur approached Kotwali police station and reported that her daughter went missing near Sis Ganj Gurdwara in Chandni Chowk. The girl was last seen on June 23 and her disappearance was suspected to be a case of luring by an unknown person, police, the officer said.

After analysing footage from nearly 1400 CCTVs in Chandni Chowk and surrounding areas, a police team iden-

tified crucial clip showing the victim with an accomplice heading towards Connaught Place and later boarding a bus towards Kodia Pul, the officer said, adding that further analysis of CCTVs at Old Delhi Railway Station led to tracing of the victim's movements and her eventual handover to traffickers.

Four suspects—Rahul (40), Inder Kumar (41), Dhiren Sah (45) and Nitin (19)—have been arrested, the officer said, adding the rescued minors have been placed at Kilkari Rain-bow Home for Girls and DMRC Child Home, Tis Hazari.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. Bakreswar, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-1937 Date: 21.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/TBTPS/NIT/E3144/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, BKTPP, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 Part bid system for "Procurement and installation of air-conditioners". Tender Document Download Start Date: 25.06.2024 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 12.07.2024 at 15:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, DGM, Purchase, BKTPP, WBPDC. Mobile: 8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110104(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-4, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

The Chief Engineer (Procurement & Contracts), WBSedCL invites e-tenders from genuine manufacturers only for manufacture, testing, supply and delivery of the following items:

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. & Description of Items	Quantity	Estimated Value (approx. in ₹)
1.	P-15/2024-25/PC-1 Composite Procurement of Battery Charger and Battery, along with Battery Accessories & Electrolytes a) 30V, 35A Manual & Automatic Float-cum-Boost Battery Charger b) 30V, 100AH Plate Type Lead Acid Storage Battery c) Electrolytes for above Battery d) Standard accessories for above Battery as per NIT	100 nos. 100 sets 100 sets 100 sets	188.53 Lakh
2.	P-17/2024-25/PC-1 11 KV AIS Series Trip Indoor Metering 3 way RMU with CIR-30-25/5-3A, FTR: 11000 (3/3110)/3V	75 sets	4.27 Cr.

ICA-110030(3)/2024
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.wbsedcl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER / QUOTATION NOTICE
EE/BSDH/PW/Roads) Dte invites online e-tender for the work of (i) "Repairing, Renovation of Compound Boundary wall of Burdwan South Highway Division office under Burdwan South Highway Division, PW/Roads) Dte. in the district of Purba Bardhaman during the year 2024-25." (Non Plan) (1st Call). (ii) "Repairing and Painting of outside wall of the Building of Assistant Engineer's Quarter under Burdwan Highway Sub Division No-I of Burdwan South Highway Division, PW/Roads) Dte. in the district of Purba Bardhaman during the year 2024-25." (Non Plan) (1st Call). (iii) "Repair and Renovation of boundary wall at premises of Kalna Highway Sub Division office compound cum stackyard under Burdwan South Highway Division, PW/Roads) Dte. in the district of Purba Bardhaman during the year 2024-25." (Non Plan) (1st Call). (iv) "Re-Construction of Wing wall of Tailara Bridge-II at 15.80 km (R/S) of Raina-Damanjuria Road under Burdwan South Highway Division, PW/Roads) Dte. in the district of Purba Bardhaman during the year 2024-25." (Non Plan) (1st Call). (v) "Lamar Village Junction to Hatigobindapur via Kora Road from 0.00 km to 6.00 km, Pre-Monsoon Repair Works under Burdwan Highway Sub Division No-I of Burdwan South Highway Division, PW/Roads) Dte. in the district of Purba Bardhaman during the year 2024-25." (Non Plan) (1st Call). Estimate Amount: Rs. 336442.00, Rs. 168877.00, Rs. 1318224.00, Rs. 648613.00 & Rs. 925717.00. e-NIT No. 01 of 2024-25 (S-1, 2, 3, 4, 5). Tr. ID: 2024_WBPWD_700419_1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Bid submission start date (online): 04.07.2024 at 2.00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 18.07.2024 at 4.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://etender.gov.in> Sd/- EE/BSDH/PW/Roads) Dte., GOVT. OF WB. ICA-110069(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of different type of medical equipments for health facilities of Govt. of West Bengal as per details indicated in the table below:

A. Supply and commissioning of Radio Ablation System with Accessories for Dept. of Orthopedics at MMN MCH, Cochinbar:	Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid	Remarks
1	Radio Ablation System with Accessories (01)	WBMSCL/NIT-385/2024, Dated - 25.06.2024	15.07.2024 up to 05:00 PM	2 nd call of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-194/2024, Dated-12.03.2024	

B. Supply and commissioning of High Frequency Digital Radio Fluorcopy System for the Dept. of Radiology, Burdwan MCH	Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid	Remarks
1	High Frequency Digital Radio Fluorcopy System (03)	WBMSCL/NIT-386/2024, Dated - 25.06.2024	15.07.2024 up to 05:00 PM	2 nd call of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-194/2024, Dated-12.03.2024	

Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbtdenders.gov.in The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&FW Dept. ICA-110018(3)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-1938 Date: 21.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/BKTPP/NIT/E3134/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, BKTPP, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of Spares for 36" Gravimetric Coal Feeder and other Miscellaneous Spare Item of 10E10 Coal Mill under BM Dept at BKTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 25.06.2024 at 10.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 18.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Sr.Mgr, HOD (Purchase Deptt), BKTPP, WBPDC. Mobile-8336903911. E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in / purchase_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110102(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Employment Notice No. 668 LA/Estab., Dated 27th June, 2024
Applications are invited by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat from eligible candidates for engagement of five (05) English Reporters in West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat on purely contractual basis at a consolidated pay of Rs. 25000/- per month for a period of one year or till filling up the said posts on regular basis, whichever is earlier. Details are available on the website at wbassembly.gov.in. Last date of receipt of application is the 22nd July, 2024.
Sd/-
Joint Secretary-cum Committee Officer
West Bengal Legislative Assembly.
ICA-N281(2)/2024

West Bengal State AIDS PREVENTION & CONTROL SOCIETY
Swasthya Bhawan, 1st Floor, Wing B, GN-29 Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091

NOTICE
Online BIDS are invited vide no. HFW-28016(19)/8/2018-IEC/E-NIT-02 dated: 28.06.2024 for broadcasting 100 no. of 60 second shows in each Multiplex for 18 Multiplex for one month in West Bengal. The Tender documents and other details may be viewed at e-tender portal by opening E-procurement platform <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>. As well as other amendments & corrigendum also available in above website.
Sd/-
Controller of Finance

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

WBSedCL invites e-Tenders as follows:

- NIT No.: DM/NTD/E-TENDER/469/4748, Date: 24.06.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Newtown Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 8,88,936/- for the work of "Tender for hiring of 04 nos. highly skilled/killed manpower through professional agency in respect of Newtown Division, WBSedCL for Computer Operation/Data Entry and other allied jobs".
- NIT No.: BNRO/E-tender/2024-2025/1525, Date: 25.06.2024 of the Regional Manager, Bidhannagar Region. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,99,666/- for the work of "Deployment of 3 nos. of manpower (Cadre: Unskilled) towards Office Keeping job at Bidhannagar Region".
- NIT No.: WBSedCL/BNDD/O/E-TENDER/24-25/05, Date: 24.06.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Bidhannagar-II Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,18,325/- for the work of "Engagement of 3 nos. unskilled manpower for a period of 12 months from 01.08.2024 to 31.07.2025 at different locations under Bidhannagar-II Division".

Extension of Time
1) Ref. Original NIT No.: RM/24PNR/Civil/2024-25/01, Date: 10.06.2024 of the Regional Manager, 24-Pgns(N) Region. Bid Submission Date is hereby extended up to 08.07.2024 (12:00 hrs.).
2) Ref. Original NIT No.: DM/SSD/E-Tender-1/2024-2025, Date: 07.06.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Siliguri Sub-Urban Division. Bid Submission Date is hereby extended up to 04.07.2024 (11:00 hrs.).
3) Ref. Original NIT No.: DM/SSD/E-Tender-2/2024-2025, Date: 07.06.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Siliguri Sub-Urban Division. Bid Submission Date is hereby extended up to 04.07.2024 (11:00 hrs.).
ICA-110039(1)/2024
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.wbsedcl.in

NOTICE
In terms of provisions as laid down u/s 77(1) of RP Act, 1951 and Rule 86 of Conduct of Election rules, 1961 it is hereby notified to all contesting candidates under 94-Bagda (SC) Assembly Constituency that inspection of Election Expenses of the candidates in connection with Assembly Bye-Election-2024 for 94-Bagda (SC) AC will be conducted by the Hon'ble Expenditure Observer as per schedule noted below.

Inspection	Date	Time	Venue
1st	29.06.2024	11.00 AM	Office of the SDO, Bongaon, P.O. Bongaon, Dist : North 24 Parganas, PIN : 743235
2nd	03.07.2024	to	
3rd	06.07.2024	05.00 PM	

The following documents should be placed before the Hon'ble Expenditure Observer for inspection.
1. Register for maintenance of Accounts of Election Expenditure by contesting candidates (Part-A while colour, Part-B pink colour & Part-C yellow colour)
2. Original bills and vouchers, bank pass book and other related documents.
All the candidate or his/her Election Agent along with additional agent for expenditure are hereby requested to remain present at SDO Office Bongaon for such inspection.
Sd/-
Sub-Divisional Officer
Bongaon, North 24 Parganas
Dt. 27.06.2024
Memo No.: 2167(3)/DICO/N24PgS,

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monirgram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTPP/CC-1921 Date: 20.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/SGTPP/NIT/E2960/24-25 Dated: 20.05.2024

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SGTPP, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 Part bid system for the job "Consultancy services for construction of a round shed roof connecting two wings of the school at SGTPP Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 25.06.2024 at 10.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 08.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Manas Mallick, Add. General Manager (M&C), Mobile: 8336903847. Email: m.mallick@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110087(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Santalidih Thermal Power Project
P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-1933 Date: 21.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/STPS/NIT/E3555/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Collection & bagging of sundried Cansophere & Subsequently Transportation to STPS Store, Santalidih T.P.S.". Tender Document Download Start Date: 28.06.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 06.07.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta, Sr. Manager (Contract Cell), Contact No.: 8336903918. E-mail: kdutta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110086(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagaridighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monirgram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-1933 Date: 21.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/STPS/NIT/E2913/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 (three) Part bid system for "Procurement of Unit Switch for all Flap Gates and Contact Set for all Full Chord & Belt Way Switches installed at CHP-EM Department Stage-I & II SgTPP WBPDC". Tender Document Download Start Date: 22.06.2024 at 03.00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 13.07.2024 at 03.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase), Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amandal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110100(3)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolkata Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-1936 Date: 21.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/KTPS/NIT/E2930/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Rate Contract for Coal Cleaning and Housekeeping at Coal Stages, Chutes, Decking Plates, returns, floors as well as assistance services at Stage-I Mobile Tripper Operation at CHP, KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 29.06.2024 at 11.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 30.07.2024 at 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. S. Mondal, Sr. Manager (PS) (Contract Cell), KTPS, Mobile No: 9874630130. E-mail: s.mondal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110101(3)/2024

Rain turns DU library into a dripping mess

New Delhi: The ceiling of a library in Delhi University's north campus started leaking after heavy rains lashed the national capital early Friday, forcing students to move out of the reading room.

In a video that surfaced online, water was seen to be dripping from the ceiling of Faculty of Arts library and a portion of the reading room was filled with water.

Rajesh Singh, the librarian, said a survey of leakage was conducted immediately after it was reported and repair work is being carried out currently.

"We have written to the engineering department of Delhi University about the matter. A team of the department has surveyed the leakage at noon and the repair work is being

carried out," he said. According to the librarian, the ceiling leaked because of the accumulation of excessive rainwater on the rooftop. The situation was controlled after the rainwater was drained between 7 am to 8 am, he added.

Students have been asked to use other rooms of the library while the repair work is underway.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WR&DD NIT
Executive Engineer (A-M), Berhampore-1 (A-M) Division invites e-tender for (i) Construction of Pump Shed under Lalbagh P.W. Sub-Division and (ii) Repairing of Trench Hull Barge under Berhampore (A-M) Sub-Division under Berhampore (A-M) Division. e-NIT No: EE(A-M)/BER-1/ENIT-01/2024-25 Tender Id-2024_WROD_702040_1 and 2 Last dropping date is 08.07.2024 up to 3.00 PM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M) Berhampore-1 (A-M) Division ICA-110012(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Kalimpong Division, PWD invites online e-NIT as below mentioned work:- "Emergent Temporary Restoration work of Teesta Valley Road for Restoration of Traffic Movement from 28.650 km to 29.150 km and 28.000 kmp under Kalimpong Division P.W. Sub-Division and (ii) Repairing of Trench Hull Barge under Berhampore (A-M) Sub-Division under Berhampore (A-M) Division. e-NIT No: 01 of 2024-25. Bid submission start date (online): 27.06.2024 from 05.00 PM. Bid submission closing date (online): 01.07.2024 up to 03.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender document may be downloaded from: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE, PWD, Kalimpong Division ICA-110109(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice of I & CA Deptt
Memo No. of NIT 2400-ICA(N) dt: 28/06/2024 and Tender ID: 2024_ICAD_702877_1. e-Tender is hereby invited from intending bidders for the "Selection of Websites/ Mobile Application under the Information and Cultural Affairs Department Government of West Bengal". Bid submission closing date: 16/07/2024 at 11:30 am. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> and office notice board. Sd/- Director of Information, Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal ICA-110108(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PHED e-TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, Northern Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte., Siliguri on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal invites e-tender for the work "WBPHED/EE/NMD/NIT No. 03 of 2024-2025" for (05) Five nos works having Tender ID: 2024_PHE-D-699907_1, 2024_PHE-D-699907_2, 2024_PHE-D-699907_3, 2024_PHE-D-699907_4 and 2024_PHE-D-699907_5 under Northern Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. The Tender Document collection and submission from 27.06.2024, 10.00 AM to 22.07.2024, 10.00 AM. For details visit on: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> The tender is also visible at departmental website: www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- EE/NMD/PHED ICA-110049(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, P.W.Dte., Midnapore invites online e-tender for the work "Construction of Sadhu Ram Chand Murnu University of Jhargham in the District of Jhargham (at Phase-I) Project ID: "H1920216865000". Construction of G+2 stored library Building including Tube Well, Student Activity Centre & Electrical Sub-Station Cum Care Taker Quarter under Jhargham Division, P.W.Dte.". Estimated Amount: Rs. 11,02,48,733.00. NIT No. 01 of 2024_WBPWD_699458_1. Bid submission start date (online): 02.07.2024 from 10.00 Hours. Bid submission closing date (online): 23.07.2024 at 15.00 Hours. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, P.W.Dte. ICA-110057(3)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. Tribeni, Dist. - Hooghly, Pin - 712503

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25/BTPS/CC-1890 Date: 18.06.2024
NIT No.: WBPDC/BTPS/NIT/E2406/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, BTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2(two) Part bid system for "Procurement of 50 number of Desktop for Up-gradation of Desktop from Old windows 7 based PC to windows 10/11 OS at BTPS under CAPEX". Tender Document Download Start Date: 01.07.2024 at 16.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 24.07.2024 at 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mrs. Ranjana Bhadrui, Add. General Manager (M&C), Phone: 033-2681 2311. E-mail: purchase_btps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-110043(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monirgram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/Tend-Adv/24-25



DAY AFTER CID FILES POCSO CHARGESHEET, HC EXTENDS BSY'S ARREST PROTECTION BY 2 WEEKS



POLICE URGENCY, NOT PUBLIC OUTCRY, DROVE SWIFT ACTION IN PUNE PORSCHE CASE: FADNAVIS



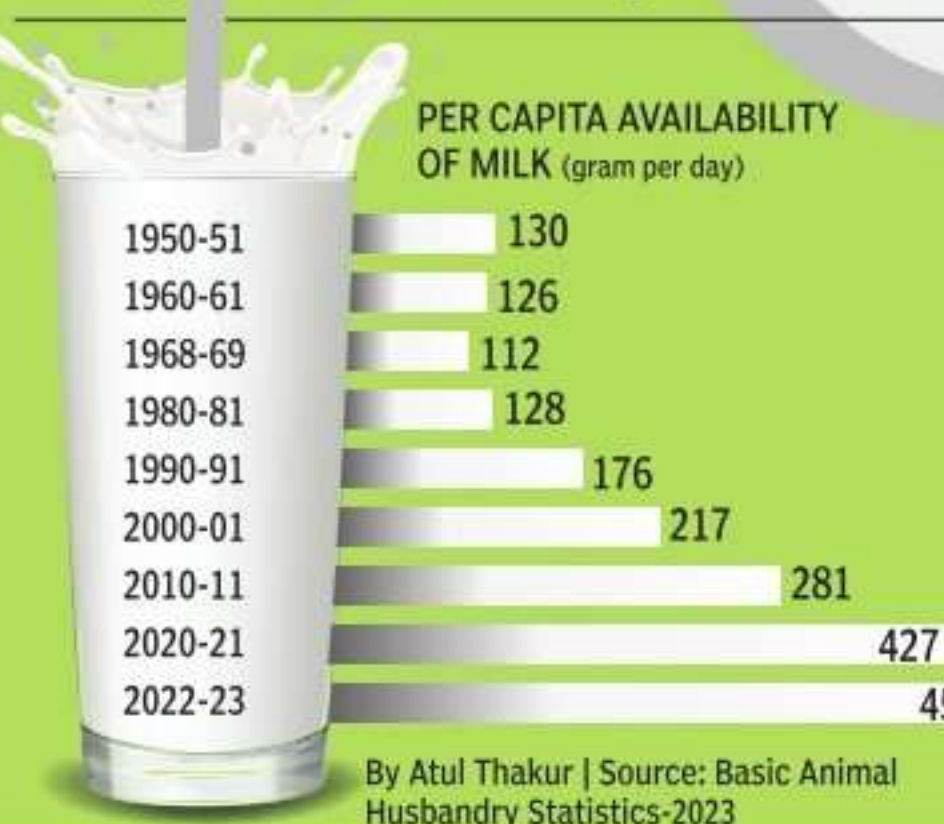
The first prototype of Apple I computer was tested on this day in 1975. The first iPhone was also released the same day in 2007

'Lavish' lunch upsets Himanta

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed "extreme displeasure" over an elaborate menu, which included non-vegetarian dishes, served during a cabinet meeting on Thursday, reports **Kangkan Kalita**. Despite directives for a simple vegetarian meal, the menu included several meat and fish items, sparking criticism on social media. On Friday, Sarma issued a letter to deputy commissioner Varnali Deka, with a copy to state chief secretary Ravi Kota, emphasizing the breach of his office's directive and criticising the array of dishes served.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Milk availability per person grew nearly four-fold in 70 years



Combative Oppn Stalls House Over NEET

Rahul Claims Mic Switched Off, Speaker Says No Such Provision

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Both Houses of Parliament witnessed stormy scenes on Friday over the opposition's demand for a discussion on alleged irregularities in the conduct of NEET-UG with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourning the House within 15 minutes in the morning.

Rajya Sabha saw repeated adjournments as opposition parties sought an immediate discussion even as the House took up the motion of thanks on the President's address.

In Lok Sabha, opposition benches refused to allow the House to transact business till a discussion was held on NEET and other exam-related issues. Birla adjourned the House soon after opposition references were over as the opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi, refused to relent. The House was first adjourned till 12 noon and later for the day.

Birla and parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju told opposition members that

they could discuss the matter during the course of the motion of thanks on the President's address. "There is a difference between protest on the road and protest inside the House. You (opposition) don't want the House to run? You don't want to discuss NEET during the motion of thanks discussion?" Birla asked.

Rijiju said it had never happened that the House discussed any issue before a debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address.

Rahul alleged that his mike was switched off as he was trying to speak, to which the Speaker said he had no provision to switch off the mike of any member.

Rahul later said in a video statement, "India bloc wants to have a constructive debate with govt on NEET exam and the paper leak issue. It is unfortunate that we were not allowed to do so in Parliament today."

"We wanted to give a joint message to students on behalf of opposition and govt that we consider this an im-



Rijiju said it had never happened that the House discussed any issue before a debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address

portant issue," he added.

Similar scenes unfolded in Rajya Sabha. Opposition members, including leader of opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, trooped into the well of the House and kept up their protests amid repeated adjournments. An upset chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "It was very painful for me, unbelievable for me, that Mallikarjun Kharge, a leader with parliamentary experience of over five decades... walked into the well of the House. What I have seen is that this institution was tarnished, tainted and demeaned."

Leader of House J P Nadra asked Congress why it

first agreed to a discussion on the President's address during the business advisory committee meeting on Thursday and then submitted notices for suspension of business to discuss NEET.

Outside the House, Kharge said it was not his intention to enter the well but he did so as he was not being seen and heard by the Chair.

When the House reassembled at 2 pm, BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi, who earlier initiated the discussion on the motion of thanks, but was repeatedly interrupted. BJP members participated in the discussion amid a walkout by opposition parties.

Govt refused debate on PM advice: Rahul

Rahul Gandhi claimed govt refused a debate on NEET in Parliament on directions of PM Modi. It is "sad" that Modi, who should be leading the debate, is averse to having one when paper leaks have become rampant and the system is

plagued with corruption and mismanagement, he added.

He said opposition's concern stems

from the fact that 70 exam papers have leaked in seven years, causing anxiety and panic to crores of families. "Everybody knows people made thousands of crores," he said.

Congress slammed "switching off" of the mic when Rahul tried to raise issue in Lok Sabha. Congress House managers Gaurav Gogoi, Manickam Tagore and Deepender Hooda issued video statements criticising the "silencing" of the leader of opposition. TNN

Govt ready for debate, as per protocol: Min

Appealing to the opposition not to confuse students, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said govt was open to discussing irregularities in the conduct of NEET but emphasised that a discussion should follow proto-

cols and maintain decorum. "When govt is ready to present its side, where is the confusion? We are committed to taking strictest action, and CBI will apprehend everyone involved," he said. Alongside, Centre's high-level panel on examination reforms is soliciting suggestions from stakeholders until July 7.

"The President spoke about it in her speech yesterday, indicating govt's readiness to address any issue," Pradhan told reporters. He stressed that govt was aware of its responsibility towards the youth and students. TNN

6 engineers suspended for Ayodhya Ram Path cave-in

Lucknow: Three days after parts of the newly constructed Ram Path in Ayodhya, leading to the Ram Temple, caved in following the first pre-monsoon rain, UP govt has suspended six engineers — three each of PWD and Jal Nigam — for negligence and dereliction of duty, reports **Neha Lalchandani**.

A notice was also served on Bhugan Infracore Pvt Ltd of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, responsible for some of the civil work in the city.

PWD executive engineer Dhruv Aggarwal, assistant engineer Anuj Deshwal and junior engineer Prabhat Pandey got the stick for poor road construction.

Jal Nigam's Anand Kumar Dubey (executive engineer), Rajendra Kumar Yadav (assistant engineer) and Mohammad Shahid (junior engineer) were suspended for drainage problems that led to waterlogging in several parts of the city.

13 returning from temple killed in crash

Haveri: Thirteen members of an extended family, including two children, were killed and four others injured early Friday when their Tempo Traveller rear-ended a parked sugarcane truck at high speed in Karnataka's Haveri while returning from a temple trip where they had offered prayers for the recently purchased MUV, reports **Basavaraj Maralihalalli**.

"While 11 were killed on the spot, two died after they were taken to hospital," said SP Anshu Kumar Srivastava about the crash on Pune-Bangalore National Highway 48 at 3.30am. Chief minister Siddaramaiah announced a Rs 2 lakh compensation for the next of kin of each person killed, while district in-charge minister Shiv-anand Patil made a personal contribution of Rs 50,000 to the family of each deceased.

The victims were returning after visiting a temple in Belagavi district's Raibag, offering prayers to the family deity Goddess Mayakka and seeking blessings for the new passenger bus.

USCIRF report biased, driven by vote bank considerations: India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India hit out at the US state department religious freedom report, saying it's deeply biased, lacks understanding about India's social fabric and is driven by vote bank considerations. In a lengthy response, Indian govt also told US that the "legitimate" dialogue on human rights and respect for diversity should not become a licence for foreign interference in other polities.

As it slammed the report, the foreign ministry said it has also raised with American authorities "political space to advocates of extremism and terrorism abroad".

Releasing the annual report on religious freedom around the world this week, secretary of state Antony Blinken had said that there's a concerning increase in anti-conversion laws, hate speech, demolitions of homes and places of worship for members of minority faith communities in India.

Rejecting the report, MEA said that the exercise itself is a mix of imputations, misrepresentations, selective usage of facts, reliance on biased sources and a one-sided projection of issues. "This extends even to the depiction of our Constitutional provisions and duly enacted laws of India. It has selectively picked incidents to advance a pre-conceived narrative as well," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

In some cases, he said, the very validity of laws and regulations are questioned by the report, as are the right of legislatures to enact them. The report also appears to challenge the integrity of

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In some cases, he said, the very validity of laws and regulations are questioned by the report, as are the right of legislatures to enact them. The report also appears to challenge the integrity of

certain legal judgments given by Indian courts, added the official.

While there's little risk of US taking any action against India, like including it in its annual black list of countries violating religious freedom, Indian govt sees such reports and remarks as pinpricks not in consonance with the growing strategic partnership between the two democracies.

According to Indian govt, the report has also targeted regulations that monitor misuse of financial flows into India. "Suggesting that the burden of compliance is unreasonable, it seeks to question the need for such measures. On its own part, US the United States has even more stringent laws and regulations and would surely not prescribe such solutions for itself," said the official.

Acknowledging human rights and respect for diversity as a legitimate subject of discussion between the countries, govt said it has itself raised concerns over violation of rights in US.

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On behalf of my client Ms. Rajya Mohan D/o Late Captain Ranbir Mohan R/o C-220, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048. Notice is hereby given to the public at large that Captain Ranbir Mohan, S/o Late Shri S. N. Mohan, R/o D-230 First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 passed away on 19.06.2024 and that his daughter Ms. Rajya Mohan is the sole legal heir and executor of his estate. Any person(s) other than Rajya Mohan attempting to take possession of, or transfer or deal with, any part of the estate of Late Captain Ranbir Mohan, including but not limited to realty, bank deposits, insurance or personal belongings, is put to strict notice that such actions are illegal and should be ceased immediately, failing which appropriate legal action shall be taken against such person. Further, any dealing with any person other than Rajya Mohan with respect to the estate of Late Captain Ranbir Mohan, in any manner whatsoever, shall be done so at its own risk and consequence and that my client, Rajya Mohan shall not take any responsibility for any such act. Sakshi Mendiratta (Advocate) Chamber No. 241, Lawyers' Chamber Block, High Court of Delhi-110003 Phone No. 9717889462

COURT NOTICE

In The High Court of Delhi at New Delhi (Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction) CS(OS) No. 232/2024 Devinder Kumar BhushanPlaintiff

Ashok Gupta & ORS.Defendants
To Defendant No. 1 - Ashok Gupta S/o Sh. Ram Kumar Gupta, R/o 411, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. Whereas the above named Plaintiff has instituted a suit for Declaration and Injunction against the above named defendant no. 1 and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Court that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by publication directing you, the above named defendant nos. 1 to make appearance before the Court of L.S. Joint Registrar (Judicial) on 30th day of July, 2024 at 11.00am. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned above, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 12th day of June, 2024. Assistant Registrar (O) For Registrar General

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Navy Lt held for 'trafficking' to South Korea

Mumbai: Mumbai crime branch has arrested Vipin Dogra, a Navy lieutenant, for sending people to South Korea on forged documents, reports **S Ahmed Ali**.

Dogra was produced before the 37th metropolitan magistrate court and remanded in police custody. When the 37th metropolitan magistrate, Y Patil, asked him if he had anything to say, Dogra admitted his mistake.

A crime branch official said they received information that there were some people who were using forged documents to apply for South Korean visas. Datta Nalawade, DCP (crime), said under the modus operandi, on reaching South Korea, the applicant would destroy the visa and the passport and seek asylum in that country. "Investigations revealed that Dogra was part of a gang of traffickers."

Cong brass caught in Sidda-DKS shadow fight for K'taka CM chair

Manu Aiyappa.Kanathanda @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru/Tumakuru: Congress high command is under fire for its handling of the row over demands for a change at the helm of its govt in Karnataka, with critics accusing it of failing to address infighting.

The tug-of-war for the top job between chief minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, which was until now in the shadows, is threatening to come out in the open. While Shivakumar is reportedly hopeful Siddaramaiah will relinquish his position midway through the govt's five-year term, Siddaramaiah has shown no inclination to step down.

While Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have said very little in public, support-



TROUBLE BREWING: The tug-of-war between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, which was until now in the shadows, is threatening to come out in the open

ers of the two have kept the fire burning with demands for more deputy CMs. This goes to the heart of the squabble which erupted soon after Congress' thumping victory in last year's assembly elections. When Shivakumar reportedly pushed for the CM post, party brass is said to have placated him with the exclusive position of deputy CM.

But now, those close to Siddaramaiah are de-

manding additional deputy CM posts — in what is seen as a bid to curb Shivakumar's influence in the part and govt — while Shivakumar's supporters want Siddaramaiah to quit and hand over the reins to the Kanakapura strongman.

This has created a challenging scenario for the party's central brass which, critics say, had merely watched from the sidelines.

"This lack of action is affecting governance as uncertainty continues to swirl. High command should engage with both functionaries and clarify the situation regarding a change and put an end to speculation," political analyst Vishwas Shetty said.

Psephologist Sandeep Shastri suggested that Congress brass is weighing its options given LS polls and emerging national trends.

Identity thief takes police, courts for a ride

Selvaraj.A@timesgroup.com

Chennai: In a case of incredible impersonation, a clerk working in an advocate's office took police, prosecution as well as courts — from sessions court to Supreme Court — for a ride for 15 years. The clerk fought a case of domestic violence slapped against him at all levels of judiciary using his elder brother's identity and is now absconding after SC upheld Madras HC's verdict convicting him. It all started in 2002 when the clerk, Palani, befriended a woman, Lourdu Mary, introducing himself as 'Panneerselvam'.



It all started in 2002 when the clerk, Palani, befriended a woman, Lourdu Mary, introducing himself as 'Panneerselvam'

selvam'. He told Mary that his family calls him 'Palani'. The duo started a live-in relationship and had two children.

But seven years down the line, ties soured after Palani attacked Mary and one of the kids following a quarrel.

Based on Mary's complaint, he was booked for attempt to murder and for offences under Juvenile Justice Act, and arrested. In Mary's complaint, FIR and court records, he was named 'Panneerselvam'.

Those were the pre-Aadhar card days. As Palani and his brother didn't look very different, police bought into his claim, inspector Perundurai R Murugan of Kodambakkam police station said.

In 2018, a sessions court convicted Palani, but he went in appeal, first in HC then in SC. Earlier this year, SC ordered 'Panneerselvam' to surrender before the trial court and serve a three-year

prison term. Subsequently, the trial court issued a non-bailable warrant when he failed to surrender.

The impersonation was discovered earlier this month, when a police team assigned to nab the absconding convict tracked 'Panneerselvam' to Kancheepuram, only to realise that he was the convict's elder brother.

While police are searching for the absconding Palani, it is not clear as to how they will arrest him even if he is traced. Though Palani is the offender, court papers would show 'Panneerselvam' as the suspect who was tried and convicted.

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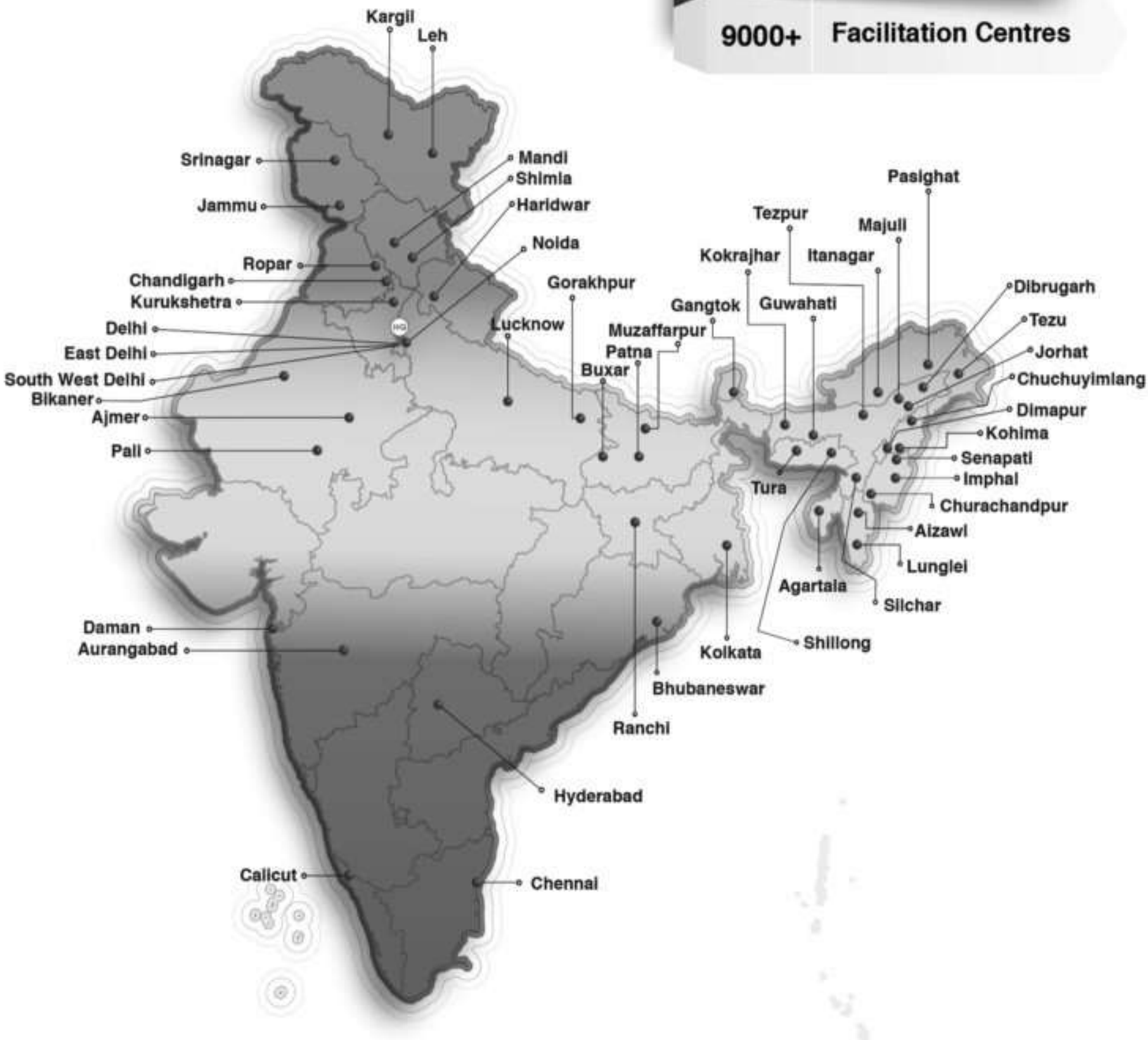
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12	*Associate Professor (Medical Anthropology)	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	Level-13A1+ Rs.138300-209200	
13	Assistant Professor (Neuro-psychopharmacology)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	Regular Basis
14.	*Assistant Professor (Psychiatry)	09	-	-	01	07	01#	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
15.	Assistant Professor (Neurology)	02	-	01	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
16.	Assistant Professor (Neuro Anaesthesia)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
17.	Assistant Professor (Neuro-Radiology)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
18.	*Assistant Professor (Psychiatric Social Work)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
19.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychology)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
TOTAL			37	12	02	02	20	01		

#As per EWS guidelines, if vacancy earmarked for EWS (S.No.14 of above advertisement) cannot be filled up due to non-availability of a suitable candidate belonging to EWS, such vacancy for that particular recruitment year shall not be carried forward to the next recruitment year as backlog, hence other category candidates may be allowed provisionally to apply for these posts, subject to condition that they will be considered for the post as an UR candidate, only if EWS category vacancy is otherwise not filled.

Applications are invited from the Citizens of India for the following Faculty Posts on Regular Basis under Centre of Excellence (COE)

Sl. No.	Name of post	No. of Post	Reservation						Pay Matrix Level	Mode of Recruitment
			UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS			
20.	*Associate Professor (Psychiatric Social Work)	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	Level-13A1+ Rs.138300-209200	Regular Basis
21.	Associate Professor (Psychiatric Nursing)	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	Level-13A1+ Rs.138300-209200	
22.	Assistant Professor (Psychiatric Nursing)	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
23.	*Assistant Professor (Psychiatric Social Work)	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
24.	Assistant Professor (Psychiatry)	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	Level-12 Rs.101500-167400	
TOTAL			05	04	-	-	01	-		

(*Due to some administrative reasons posts mentioned at S. No. 12, 18, 20 and 23 are being re-advertised (advertisement published on 09/09/2023), those candidates who have been applied earlier for these posts, their candidature will be considered if eligible and they need not to apply again.) 04 Posts are reserved for PWD Category.

Allowances will be as per rules. For details of eligibility criteria i.e. Qualification, Experience, Age & Application Format please visit our website (www.ihbas.delhi.gov.in). Interested and eligible candidates may apply with appropriate format photograph, along with duly attested copies of qualification, Diploma/Degree, experience certificates etc., Demand Draft of Rs.1000/- (Exempted for SC/ST and PwD candidates) in favour of 'Director, IHBAS'. Upper age limit is relaxable for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes and PwD candidates as per rules. However, OBC certificate issued by the Authority of Delhi Govt., only will be accepted. Institute reserves the right to increase/decrease, fill or not to fill any/all the vacancies.

Age Relaxation of 5 years will be applicable for Government employees as per GOI guidelines.

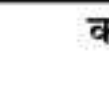
Professor, Additional Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor for Non-Medical disciplines will carry same Pay Matrix Level at par with Medical professional except NPA. Allowances will be as per Rules. Category of Posts mentioned at Sl. No. 01 to 07, 9 to 11, 13 to 17 & 24 are 'Medical Discipline', posts mentioned at Sl. No. 08, 12, 18 to 20 & 23 are 'Non-Medical Discipline' and posts mentioned at Sl.No.21 & 22 are 'Nursing Discipline'.

The application(s) duly filled-in along with necessary documents must reach to the Office of Director, IHBAS, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 on or before 14th August, 2024. The applicant who is in service of Central Govt./State Govt./Public Sector Undertaking/Autonomous Body shall have to submit his/her NOC at the time of interview. A certificate from the employer is also required to be submitted that in case of his/her selection his department will be relieved him/her to join IHBAS. (for complete details please visit our website (www.ihbas.delhi.gov.in))

Sd/- Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder K. Dhamija
Director, IHBAS

DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0108/24-25

MENTAL ILLNESSES ARE TREATABLE

**कार्यालय प्राचार्य, सोबन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान अल्मोड़ा**


निर्वाह प्रभु, अल्मोड़ा, उत्तराखण्ड, जिला-अल्मोड़ा-263601 (उत्तराखण्ड)
ई-मेल- principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com <http://www.ssgjmsrimalmora.org>
मोबाइल नं:- 9412410759 फोन/फैक्स नं:- 05962-230557
GSTIN: 05AAAGS2989B12A PAN: AAAGS2989B TAN: MRTS16286E
मार्क:- 81/बीएमएस/विज्ञान/0-1 :- ई-निविदा नोटिस :- दिनांक:- 28.06.2024

सोबन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान अल्मोड़ा से सम्बद्ध गोवर्धन विद्यार्थी राजकीय चैस चिकित्सालय अल्मोड़ा में अक्सिजन बूस्टर को स्थापना (टर्नकी के आधार पर) हेतु उन्मुखित अर्थात् निम्नलिखित-2017 में निहित प्रबंधन के अंतर्गत वेब-साइट www.uktender.gov.in के माध्यम से निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.सं.	सामग्री/कार्य का नाम	बिड डाउनलोड करने की तिथि व समय	बिड अपलोड करने की तिथि व समय
1	Oxygen Booster Unit (Turkey Project)	28.06.2024 at 06.30 PM (IST)	08.07.2024 at 12.30 PM (IST)

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी/बिड डॉक्यूमेंट ई-प्रोक्वायरमेंट पोर्टल www.uktender.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा वेबसाइट से अपिलेखों को डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

प्राचार्य
सोबन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान अल्मोड़ा

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117607)

Tender Inquiry No.77/CHP/OP-319/GSPCL/2024-25 Dated 27/06/2024


Dy. CE/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tenders for the work of following tender :-

1. "General housekeeping/ cleaning & reclamation of spilled coal etc. from all locations of coal handling plant Stage-I, (Unit 1 & 2) & Stage-II (Unit 3 & 4) at Coal Handling Plant, GHTP Lehra Mohabbat".

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 27/06/2024 from 17:00 PM onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-45/24, DPR/PB-76155/12/3044/2023/35137

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed 'Open Tender' through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-E-2024-133 Approx Cost Rs.: 63304775.75

Description of work : Banda - Manikpur Section - Construction of Limited Height Subway in Lieu of L.C.No. 502

Earnest Money : 466500.00 [Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 09 Months]


E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-E-2024-134 Approx Cost Rs.: 8765712.79

Description of work : Rehabilitation of under water bridge structure, approaches, stone pitching flooring at major and important bridges under jurisdiction of Sr. DENE/DHS.

Earnest Money : 175300.00 [Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 06 Months]

Date of Closing Tender : for all tender : 19.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs. • Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 19.07.2024. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in 1107/24 (D)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway CPNCR

**INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MOHALI**

(An Autonomous Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India) Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali- 140306, Punjab

No. 3(1)/2024-INST Dated: 25.06.2024

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS / NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, INST, MOHALI

Institute of Nano Science and Technology (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India), Mohali (Punjab) is an autonomous research Institute focusing on R&D of specific areas in Nano Science and Technology leading to new phenomena, processes, products and devices.

INST invites applications / nominations for the post of Director in the Pay Level-17, Rs. 2,25,000/- (fixed) with allowances as per Central Government Rules. The ideal candidate will be a dynamic leader with substantial experience and achievements in the area of nano science and technology and with a clear vision for a new institution dedicated to this field of research in the country.

The Director will be appointed after obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority based on the recommendations made by a high level Search-Cum-Selection Committee. The Search-cum-Selection Committee will consider applications received in the response to this advertisement as well as nominations received from eminent academic persons like fellows of prestigious national science and engineering academies, directors of national R&D laboratories and vice-chancellors of universities. The Committee can consider those who may not have applied for the post after considering all the applications and nomination and finding that no candidate is suitable. The Search-cum-Selection Committee can also invite a person of high repute for appointment. The committee may consider relaxing the experience requirement by a few years in case of highly deserving candidates (as per Institute rules).

The incumbent will be appointed on Direct Recruitment / Deputation, including short term contract / Re-employment for a period of 3 to 5 years or on attaining the age of superannuation as per extant government instructions (60 years at present), whichever is earlier.

Age Limit – Not exceeding 56 years. The crucial date of determining the age limit shall be 01.01.2024.

Applications should be sent by post to "The Knowledge City & Administrative Officer, Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Knowledge City, Sector - 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab" in the prescribed format along with self attested photocopies of certificates in support of Age, Qualifications and Experience so as to reach the above mentioned address latest by 06.08.2024 (The last date of receipt of applications from candidates of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh Division of Jammu and Kashmir State Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangri Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep will be 21.08.2024). In case of nominations, the eminent persons nominating a candidate may forward the candidate's application along with recommendations by post so as to reach the above address by 21.08.2024.

Detailed advertisement is available at the website of INST viz. www.inst.ac.in

Sd/-
Chief Finance & Administrative Officer

TOIFA Awards to reward best in content & creativity on OTT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In a pioneering move to reward creativity in the thriving space of OTT entertainment, The Times of India (BCCL) on Friday announced the launch of the inaugural ‘Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA)’ OTT Edition 2023 at a press conference in Santacruz, Mumbai.

The awards ceremony will take place in the last week of July.

TOIFA-OTT is an awards ceremony dedicated to the OTT platform, which is the new medium of the modern age. Web films and series have captured the imagination of audiences—as well as a large share of the entertainment market. The content is robust and has now got another means of recognition.

On Friday, Sivakumar Sundaram, CEO—Publishing and Executive Director of Bennett, Coleman & Company Ltd (BCCL), Siddharth Roy Kapur, Founder, Roy Kapur Films, and Shibusish Sarkar, President of the Producers Guild of India, announced that TOIFA will fetter the best in streaming content.

TOIFA will honour and celebrate exemplary talent in acting, content creation and technical prowess in online Hindi films and series that premiered on streaming platforms between Jan 1, 2023 and Dec 31, 2023.

The event began with the unveiling of the magnificent TOIFA OTT trophy, which is carved in black and light blue, depicting a film reel upon the crown.

The awards are being mentored by an Advisory Council comprising industry stalwarts such as Rajkumar Hirani, Shoojit Sircar, Samer Nair, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Nikhil Advani, Aanand L Rai, Guneeet Monga Kapoor, Raveena Tandon and Madhura Mukherjee.

Another feather in the cap is that TOIFA will have the largest jury of any film awards ceremony in the country. To this end, it has partnered with the Producers Guild of India whose 175 members have been requested to vote.

TOIFA will impart a much-needed transparency,

CEREMONY SCHEDULED IN LAST WK OF JULY



Siddharth Roy Kapur, Founder, Roy Kapur Films, and Member, Advisory Council, TOIFA, and Shibusish Sarkar, President of the Producers Guild of India, announced the launch of the inaugural Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA) OTT Edition 2023 at a press conference in Santacruz, Mumbai, on Friday

The TOIFA OTT Awards are committed to ensure that consumers have a voice, and have therefore introduced the People's Choice Voting Awards in four popular categories:
Male Actor | Web Film
Female Actor | Web Film
Male Actor | Web Series
Female Actor | Web Series

Audiences can vote for their favourite artists by logging onto www.toifa.in
TOIFA will reward Technical Excellence in multiple categories like Background Score, Costume Design, Casting Ensemble: Web Series, Cinematography, Visual Effects, Writing and Editing
➤ Acting Excellence awards in the Web Series space will encompass Best Female and Male Actors as well as those in Supporting Roles (Female and Male), Actors in a Negative Role and in Comedy
➤ Other categories include

Comedy Series of the Year, Crime/Thriller/Horror Series of the Year, Drama Series of the Year, Reality Show of the Year, Debut of the Year and Showrunner for OTT Series
➤ In the Web Films space, too, Female and Male Actors will be rewarded for their Acting Excellence. Female and Male Actors in a Supporting Role apart from those in a Negative Role and Comedy will receive awards for their performance
➤ Film of the Year, Debut of the Year and Director Award for Film are other highlights

credibility and objectivity to the entire awards ecosystem. Moreover, the process will be audited by EY.

Sivakumar Sundaram said, “TOIFA has emerged as the definitive awards platform for the Indian film industry. This year, recognising the increasing significance of streaming platforms, we are delighted to launch the TOIFA—Hindi OTT Edition. Through a rigorous voting process in partnership with the Producers Guild of India, we will celebrate outstanding talent in 28 different award categories on OTT.”

Shibusish Sarkar of the Guild said, “We are delighted to partner with the TOIFA OTT Awards and are confident that they will provide credible and prestigious recognition for outstanding work in the streaming space. Especially so, as the jury/academy comprising Producers Guild of India members will be voting.”

Siddharth Roy Kapur said, “I am pleased to join the Advisory Council. The initial scepticism about ‘yet another awards function’ quickly wore off. I was impressed by the commitment of the organi-

sers to create a credible and respected platform that will recognise excellence in streaming. This aligns well with our shared goal of celebrating exceptional talent across all creative and technical disciplines in the industry.”

This ceremonious moment was followed by an in-depth exposition of the award categories by the Advisory Council.

The TOIFA OTT Edition 2023 is presented by KRasa, co-powered by Goldiee Masale & KPT Pipes in association with Usha Kakade Productions & Amante!

FATF: India has reached high level of compliance to curb laundering

But Stresses Need To Boost Steps In Some Non-Financial Sectors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Financial Action Task Force has said that India has reached a high level of technical compliance and backed its anti-money laundering and counter terror financing efforts, while underlining the need for improvements to strengthen supervision and implementation of preventive measures in some non-financial sectors and address delays in concluding prosecutions. It also sought checks to prevent the non-profit sector from being abused for terror financing.

India has been placed in the “regular follow-up” category, along with four other G20 members, the finance ministry said.

Following an evaluation of the Indian regime, the agency that leads the action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing, said the good results included access to basic and beneficial ownership information, use of financial intelligence, and depriving criminals of their assets and counter-proliferation financing measures.

MEA called it a good and an astounding outcome for India. “It is a significant achievement in that sense,” said the



India has been placed in the ‘regular follow-up’ category, along with four other G20 members, the finance ministry said

spokesperson.

Govt sources said they were waiting for FATF to publish its report, which will give detailed recommended actions, which will be analysed in detail. “India has also developed an action plan as part of its national risk assessment. A fresh national risk assessment is also due in 2025 and all the issues flagged by FATF will be addressed in due course. But, again the issues flagged by FATF are not significant deficiencies,” said a source.

Commenting on the non-financial sector, sources said players such as real estate agents, dealers in precious metals and stones, professional accountants, virtual asset service providers were brought under PMLA recently and India substantiated the sustainability of the framework.

“India’s performance on FATF Mutual Evaluation holds significant advantages for the country’s growing economy, as it demonstrates the overall stability and integrity of the financial system. Good ratings will lead to better access to global financial markets and institutions and increase investor confidence. It will also help in the global expansion of UPI,” an official statement said.

It said that FATF recognised gov’t efforts in measures implemented to transition from a cash-based to a digital economy to reduce money laundering (ML) and terror financing (TF) risks, as well as steps on financial inclusion.

“This recognition from the FATF is a testament to the rigorous and effective measures implemented by India over the last 10 years to safeguard its financial system from ML/TF threats. It underscores the country’s commitment to international standards and its proactive stance in the global fight against financial crimes,” the statement said.

In what was probably a reference to Pakistan, which was until recently on the “gray list”, the govt said: “This sets a benchmark for countries in our region to effectively implement international standards on terrorist financing.”

FATF also took Turkey, often linked to dirty money, out of the gray list.

China expert Misri is new foreign secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt announced Friday deputy NSA **Vikram Misri**, an IFS officer of 1989 batch, will take over as foreign secretary from incumbent Vinay Kwatra on July 15. While there has been no formal word yet, Kwatra is widely tipped to be the next Indian ambassador to the US.

Before joining as deputy NSA, Misri’s most high-profile posting was as ambassador to China from early 2019 to 2021. Misri handled relations with Beijing during one of the most tumultuous periods in the bilateral ties in recent

We oppose unilateral actions in SCS: MEA

Amid the growing threat of violence between China and the Philippines in South China Sea, India said Friday it opposes unilateral actions seeking to change the status quo by force in the region. Tensions between China and the Philippines escalated following a clash between their security personnel a few days ago in the South China Sea.

“We oppose destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion as well. And we underline the need for peaceful settlement of disputes,” external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. **TNN**

times that saw the eruption of the ongoing military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2000 and the subsequent Galwan clash from which the relationship is yet to recover.

Speaking a month after the clash in 2020, Misri had said the only way to resolve the standoff was for China to

realise that trying to change the status quo by resorting to force or coercion, is not the right way forward.

He had then warned China that such actions won’t just damage the peace and tranquility that existed at the border earlier but will also have “ripples and repercussions” for the broader bilateral relationship.

Misri, who has worked as private secretary to three PMs—IK Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi, is also well versed in neighbourhood affairs as he has served as India’s ambassador to Myanmar and also in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in different capacities. He has also served as ambassador to Spain and as political counselor in the Indian embassy in Washington. Misri has worked a joint secretary in the PMO too.

The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved the name of Misri to the post of foreign secretary with effect from July 15, an official notification said.

What’s worse? Marriage fraud or forced labour?

Per new criminal laws that will come into force from July 1, fraudulent marriage carries a 7-yr jail term but forcing someone to work for you is punishable with only a year in jail. While BNS is more transparent and efficient than British-era laws, it misses the opportunity to meaningfully overhaul justice delivery system

Naveed Mehmood Ahmad, Ayushi Sharma & Ayush Mallik

Three new criminal laws are set to come into force on July 1, marking a significant landmark in the evolution of India’s criminal justice system (CJS). These laws will replace nearly 200-year-old laws that laid the edifice of India’s CJS.

The Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1973 will now be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA), respectively.

Dismantling A Colonial System

These laws are significant for their acknowledgement of the deep-rooted colonial influences plaguing India’s CJS. They are also important for underlining the need to establish a system that prioritises justice over punishment.

Colonial lawmakers, shaped by racial biases, defined crime and punishment for India in ways that reinforced their control over the native Indian population. Similarly, through special laws, oppressive policing practices were institutionalised, communities were criminalised and widespread surveillance was enabled.

Transparency & Efficiency

The new laws do take some steps to remedy this. By instituting community service, prescribing procedural timelines, mandating the police to update victims on the progress in investigation, making videography of search and seizure compulsory, and allowing electronic FIR filing and trials, these laws signify a progressive shift towards transparency, efficiency and contemporaneity.

Colonial Penal Mindset

However, these laws significantly fall short of their stated aim to make a system that prioritises justice over punishment. This is evident from the retention of wide police powers and offences that have the potential for misuse to suppress free speech and dissent.

More importantly, the new laws retain an outdated colonial penal mindset that over-relies on deterrence. This is reflected in their prescription of long-term imprisonments, the death penalty, and increased mandatory minimum sentences

for many offences. This has been done without laying down any clear expectation—reformatory or rehabilitative—from these punishments.

Punishments Lack Rationale

Punishments under BNS seem to have been prescribed without any underlying rationale. No apparent method seems to have been used to arrive at the form of punishment, the duration of imprisonment, the nature of imprisonment or the amount of fine.

In fact, it is perplexing how the law decides that some offences are to be punished with imprisonment alone, while others with imprisonment and fines. Similarly, there is no clear explanation for why some offences attract simple imprisonment, while others attract rigorous imprisonment.

This may very well be because of our reliance on the prescription of punishments under the IPC, and, consequently, the colonial logic. Except for the addition of community service as a form of punishment, BNS retains the same punishments, and with them the existing arbitrariness and inconsistencies.

Arbitrariness In Jail Terms

Even as the principle of proportionality calls for punishments to be reflective of the gravity of the offence, BNS often prescribes the same term of imprisonment for offences of varying gravities, and different punishments for similar offences. For instance:

- Making false statements on oath or affirmation [Section 216, BNS] is punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years and so is subjecting a woman to cruelty [Section 85, BNS].
- Defamation [Section 356(2), BNS] and concealment of birth by secret disposal of a dead body [Section 94, BNS] attract the same punishment of imprisonment up to 2 years.
- Selling a minor child for the purpose of prostitution is punishable with im-



TOI Explains

prisonment up to 10 years [Section 98, BNS], while buying a minor child for the purpose of prostitution is punishable with imprisonment up to 14 years [Section 99, BNS].

Perhaps most concerning are cases where serious offences attract lesser punishment than relatively less serious offences. For instance, fraudulently going through a marriage ceremony carries a maximum imprisonment of 7 years [Section 83, BNS], while unlawfully compelling a person to labour is punishable with imprisonment up to 1 year [Section 146, BNS], and cruelty [Section 85, BNS] and sexual harassment [Section 75, BNS] are punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years.

Disproportionate Use Of Life Term

BNS prescribes life imprisonment for some offences and not for other graver offences, without any plausible rationale. The general pattern is that life imprisonment is awarded for grave of-

WHAT IS, AND COULD’VE BEEN, DIFFERENT

Changes	Missed Opportunities
Recognition of community service as a form of punishment	Marital rape remains unrecognised as a criminal act
Gender neutrality introduced for the offences of ‘Voyeurism’ and ‘Assault to disrobe a woman’ with respect to the offender	The offences of rape, sexual harassment and stalking continue to be gender specific
Provision for victims to be informed of the progress of investigation within 90 days in specified offences	The offence of sedition, replaced by ‘act endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India’
Updated guidelines on admissibility of electronic and digital records to now be categorised as ‘primary evidence’	Police remand provisions give increased discretionary powers to the police by expanding the period during which an arrested person can be sent to police custody
Mandatory forensic investigation for offences punishable with seven years of imprisonment or more	Lack of provisions to address growing use of facial recognition technology
Timelines have been prescribed for framing of charges, delivery of judgment, submission of medical examination reports, etc	Defamation continues to be categorised as a criminal act
Adultery omitted as an offence, in recognition of the Supreme Court’s decision decriminalising it	Complete omission of Section 377—effective decriminalisation of bestiality and non-consensual same-sex intercourse

➤ Among other missed opportunities, obscenity-related provisions have been imported from the IPC, thereby further propagating regressive standards of Victorian morality. Also, police have been granted the power to detain or remove any person resisting or refusing to follow the directions passed by a police officer

fences such as murder [Section 103, BNS], dowry death [Section 80, BNS], rape of minor [Section 65, BNS], gang rape [Section 70] etc.

Compared to these, life imprisonment seems highly disproportionate for offences such as counterfeiting device or mark used for authenticating documents [Section 342, BNS], or possessing forged court records or public register, knowing it to be forged and intending to use it as genuine [Section 339, BNS].

Interestingly, while fraudulent cancellation of a will, authority to adopt or valuable security can attract imprisonment up to 7 years or life imprisonment, the buying, hiring or obtaining a child for prostitution attracts maximum 14 years but no life imprisonment.

Rationale For Fines?

The prescription of fines under BNS is also considerably inconsistent. While most offences carry fines with imprisonment, some offences do not carry any

fine at all. For instance, offences such as acid attack [Section 124, BNS], murder [Section 103, BNS] and public servant disobeying law with intent to cause injury to any person [Section 198] are punishable with fines in addition to imprisonment. In contrast, offences such as rape causing permanent vegetative state of victim [Section 66, BNS], rape causing death [Section 66, BNS] and dowry death [Section 80, BNS] do not carry any fines.

Some Fines Rehabilitative, Others Are Not

For some offences, the fine prescribed is stipulated to be rehabilitative and restorative, but not for all. For offences such as rape of a woman under 16 or 12 years of age [Section 65, BNS], gang rape or gang rape of a minor [Section 70, BNS], fine is stipulated to be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses and for rehabilitation of the victim. A similar stipulation does not exist for many offences such as rape or aggravated rape [Section 64, BNS] and sexual intercourse

by a person in a position of authority [Section 68, BNS].

Inconsistency In Fine Amount

While some offences have predetermined fines, others lack any specified amount. Even when specified, the fines often bear no correlation to the nature or gravity of the offence.

For instance, doing any obscene act in any public place [Section 296, BNS] and making atmosphere noxious to health [Section 280, BNS] attract the same fine of Rs 1,000, despite the offences being extremely different in nature. Similarly, fouling water of a public spring or reservoir [Section 279, BNS] is punishable with fine up to Rs 5,000, even though the nature of the act is similar to offence of making atmosphere noxious to health.

Hesitant Adoption Of Community Service

Community service is essentially work which the court may order any convict to perform without any entitlement to any remuneration, and which benefits the community. BNS has introduced community service as a new form of punishment for six offences such as public servant unlawfully engaging in trade [Section 202, BNS], misconduct in public by a drunken person [Section 355, BNS], defamation [Section 356(2)], etc.

Though the Statement of Object & Reasons of the BNS stated that community service was being introduced as a punishment for petty offences, it remains limited to a handful of offences. Several other petty offences, such as committing a public nuisance [Section 292, BNS], remain outside the ambit of community service.

Finding ‘Nyaya’ In Sanhita

The colonial penal policy relied on punishments to instil fear and serve as a tool to control the local population, which was seen as ‘irreformable’ and as ‘aboriginal savages’.

Despite its name emphasising ‘justice’, BNS has missed the opportunity to revisit this approach and root the system in ideas of reform, rehabilitation and restitution. Establishing clear principles to determine the appropriate nature and terms of punishments could have significantly reduced the arbitrariness inherent in the system, but unfortunately, that opportunity also seems to have been missed, at least for now.

The writers are with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205

Open Tender Enq. No. 537/P-II/EMP-W-12702 dt. 28.6.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open E tender ID No. 2024_POWER_123006_1 for Repair of defective Electronic modules of Procontrol P13, Iskamate & Cernotic technologies of ATRS & HPBP control systems of stage-II & III, GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.06.24 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://pspcil.in>
RTP-5724, DPR/IB-76155/12/3046/2023/35139

**THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA**
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)
ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi 110002

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a Statutory body created by an Act of Parliament is considering to purchase, the "Entire building (with land) known as Manhar House situated at, Final Plot no.415/10, Sub Plot No.10, S. No. 541 AB, 700 to 703, CTS No. 8/10, Near Sai Baba Mandir, Pune Satara Road, Gultekadi, Pune, 411037" belonging to M/s Automotive Manufacturers Pvt Ltd. And Mr. Sunil Satyanarayan Agarwal, Mr. Vijay Satyanarayan Agarwal, Ms. Rupali Sunil Agarwal & Ms. Sheetal Vijay Agarwal of M/s Agarwal Creation Fashions Private Limited (only having unit no.101 on 1st floor plus 6 units of car parking) as per the joint proposal received from them.

Any person claiming any right, title or interest in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, lien or having any dispute or any objection of whatsoever nature with regard to the said property, are hereby required to submit the same to The Secretary, The INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA, together with certified true copies of documents in support of such claim to The INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA, ICAI Bhawan, I.P. Marg, New Delhi-110 002. (e-mail ID: secretary@icai.in) within 15 days from the date of the publication of this Notice, failing which the claims, objections, if any, shall be considered to have been waived and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India shall not be liable for the same.

Date: 29.06.2024 Secretary
Place: Pune The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi

**OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI**
(Transport Cell)
Near Kutchery Chowk Ranchi 834001
Ph. No. - (0651-2212674/2210495)

Letter No: 303/Trans Date : 28-06-2024

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to NIT No.273/Trans Dated:- 07-06-2024 (P.R. No. - 325664) Selection of Bus Operators for Procure, Own, Operate, Maintain and Transfer a fleet of 24 Nos. AC Electric and 220 Nos. Non-AC Diesel buses for the city of Ranchi. (4th Call) the following amendment has been made.

Sl.No.	Amendments Made by RMC
1	Last date of bid submission : 08-07-2024 05:00 PM
2	Opening date of technical bid : 09-07-2024, 05:00 PM

For details please visit jharkhandtenders.gov.in . Other terms and condition will remain same as per the RFP.

Sd/-
PR 328092 Ranchi Municipal Corporation(24-25).D Administrator, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Anni**, Himachal Pradesh on the behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from contractors/firms of an appropriate class enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No.:- 1 Name of Work:- Providing WSS for the dried up sources due to C/O Rampur Hydro electric Project, to the villages of GP Bari, Tunan, Poshna, Bahwa, Kharga Kushwa & Gadej in Nirmand Block Distt Kullu H.P. (SH:- C/o VWSC Training center cum meeting hall in Nirmand Block).
Estimated Cost :- 1,01,28,030/- **Earnest Money:-** 1,33,780/- **Time Limit:-** 12 Months **Cost of tender:-** 1500/-

1 Last Date of filling/ uploading the tender through e-tendering:- 05.07.2024 upto 05:00 P.M.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hptenders.gov.in or from office of above Executive Engineer, up to date specified above.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Divn. Outer Seraj,
Anni, Distt. Kullu (H.P.)

Advt.No.-0430/2806/2024. **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

**MISSING**

Bablu Ninaji Tayade S/o. Ninnaji Tayade,
Age-32, Ramnagar, Zoopadpatti No-5, Vikhroli Park Site Colony, Vikhroli West, Mumbai, Thane City, Maharashtra. He was last seen on 03.10.2022 at Thiruvananthapuram Railway Station Platform No-3 at 9.15 AM. He is about 170 CM height, brownish black, thin and he was wearing red color shirt and blue colour jeans. If any information about him please inform to the near by Police Station or the railway police station, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in the following phone number.-04712331258, M: 9497981113


RO No: 278/F2/2024/I&PRD

**WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION**
VARIOUS ELECTRICAL WORKS
NOTICE INVITING TENDER : EL/50/1/13 (24-25) Date : 25/06/2024
Divisional Railway Manager (Elect), Western Railway, Vadodara Division for and on behalf of the president of India, invites E-Tender on Indian Railways website www Ireps.gov.in from experienced and reliable contractors for the following works :-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Estimated Cost (₹)	EMD (₹)
01	BRC-EL-P-14-2304-24-25 Vadodara Division :- Electrical work in connection with provision of 22 Nos Passenger Elevators (Lifts) at 12.0-meter-wide FOBs in connection with Amrit Station at various stations over Vadodara Division.	4,74,43,107.00	3,87,200.00
02	BRC-EL-P-15-2281-24-25 Vadodara Division :- Electrical Work in connection with provision of new sub-station building along with switch yard for reliable power supply.	22,42,317.00	44,900.00
03	BRC-EL-P-16-2311-24-25 Vadodara Division :- Electrical work in connection with provision of approach road connecting railway colony to railway station at Chanod station.	23,75,009.00	47,500.00

E-Tender closing Date: 18-07-2024 Tender Fees (₹) : NIL, Website particulars : www Ireps.gov.in


Like us on: www.facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ajay @ Ajju @ Dushyant, S/o: Madan Gopal, R/o: 9/268, Trilok Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 22050/2016, U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S. Madhu Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajay @ Ajju @ Dushyant** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajay @ Ajju @ Dushyant** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajay @ Ajju @ Dushyant** accused of **FIR No. 22050/2016, U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Madhu Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.10.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Udbhav Kumar Jain
Metropolitan Magistrate-04, Room No. 13
DP/8037/ED/2024 Karkardooma Court, Delhi

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun
Telephone - (0135) 2763672-76, Fax - (0135) 2760289


E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

E-tender Specification No. CCP-I/62/2023-2024 Package A to G invited by this office for Electrification works of ITBP Border-out-post (BoPs) Vibrant Villages under "Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 1700 Hrs of 10.07.2024. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 11.07.2024 at 11:30 hrs on ward.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

No:- 301/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Dated: 28.06.2024 CORPORATE (C&P-II)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use LED Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll free No 18001804185/ Fax No 0135-2760911)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Azharuddin Khan, S/o Sirajuddin Khan, R/o: H. No. D-331-A, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 4848/2020, U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Azharuddin Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Azharuddin Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Azharuddin Khan** accused of **CC No. 4848/2020, U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.08.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Divya Gupta
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 02
DP/8101/N/2024 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

**KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**
No.1, Dr. Siddalah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.mscl@gmail.com
No : HFW/KSMSCLEQPT/TND/NCDO1/01/2024-25 Date: 27/06/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: 1. HFW/KSMSCLEQPT/TND/NCDO1/01/2024-25, Date: 27.06.2024 (IND-0120)
2. KSMSCLEQPT/PRGM/MENTAL HEALTH/06/2024-25 Date: 27.06.2024 (IND-0121)
3. KSMSCLEQPT/RETND/PRGM/KSAPS/07/2024-25 Date: 27.06.2024 (IND-0122)
4. KSMSCLEQPT/TND/NVBD/08/2024-25 Date: 27.06.2024 (IND-0123)

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPPA Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

- Tender for the supply and installation of Equipment's under NCD Programme of NHM for the year 2024-25. (IND-0120).
- Retender for the supply Of Psychotropic Drugs Under National Mental Health Programme (IND-0121).
- Retender for the supply of Test Kits and Blood Bags for Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society, Bengaluru (IND-0122).
- Tender for the supply of Drugs, Test Kits and Insecticides under NHM-NVBD/08 Programme (IND-0123).

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 27.06.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director,
KSMSCLE, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO638/24-25

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black color Patka on Head, Half sleeves Checked Shirt, Grey color Pant and long grey beared, found unconscious condition lying on Dhanpatwar Park, Hari Nagar, Delhi and admitted in DDU Hospital, Delhi where doctor declared him brought dead on 19.06.2024. under area of PS. Hari Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a **DD No. 82A, dated 19.06.2024** has been lodged at PS. Hari Nagar, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Dead Body has been preserved in Mortuary of DDU Hospital, Delhi for 72 Hours if any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS.- Hari Nagar, Delhi
DP/8311/WD/2024 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-28125719, 8750871128

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that a Male person **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown was found at Railway line Near Shadipur flyover on 20.06.24 at 5.35 p.m. In this regard vide **DD No: 22A dated 20.06.2024 U/S 174 CrPC** has been lodged at **P.S, Ranjit Nagar, Delhi**.

The description of the deceased is given as below:

Name: Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** around 55 years, **Complexion:** Dusky, **Height:** 5'1".

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the deceased but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the deceased, please inform the undersigned

SHO
P.S Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi
DP/8161/CD/2024 Ph. No. 8750870436

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that a Male person **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown was found near Kila Ghat, Church Road, Kashmir Gate at 11:26 P.M. In this regard vide **DD No: 51A dated 16.06.2024** has been lodged at **P.S, Kashmir Gate, Delhi**

The description of the deceased is given as below:

Name: Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 35-40 years, **Complexion:** Dusky, **Height:** 5', **Wearing:** Blue Shirt & Grey Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the deceased but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the deceased, please inform the undersigned.


SHO
P.S Kashmir Gate, New Delhi
DP/8049/N/2024 Ph No. 011-23962210

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No.: 0135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Supply, Erection and Testing & commissioning of 40MVA 132/33 KV Transformers with NIPFES system and dismantling work at 132 KV Substation Simli (karanprayag)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-04/2024-25. The last date of submission of e-bid is **01.08.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU4_72754_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
RO NO 1106/HQPU/PTCUL DT 27.06.2024
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
E-Tender No.: PRYJ-Sig-406-2024-25 Dated: 25.06.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Co-ordination North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite **E-TENDER** on prescribed form for the following works up to 15:00 hrs. on 18.07.2024. The detail of the Tender is as under:-


S.N.:- 01 | Tender No.: PRYJ-Sig-406- 2024- 25
Name of Work: "S&T work in connection with Provision of new 12M FOB at Tunda station & construction of new 08 wheelers tower wagon sheds at Hathras, Dadri & Phaphund stations of Prayagraj Division."

Approx. Cost of work (in Rs.): Rs.6793286.53/- (Rs. Sixty Seven Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Six and Fifty Three paise Only), **Bid Security/ Earnest Money (in Rs):** 135900.00

Completion Period: 12 Months | **Date of Closing of tender:** 18.07.2024

2. Availability of tender form: Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. **3. Earnest Money to be deposited:** The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenderers without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. **4. Time, date & place of opening of tender:** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre determined date at 15:30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. **5. Validity of offer:** 60 days from the date of opening. **6. Right of Railway to deal with tender:** Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. **1109/24 (ADM)**

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ northcentralrailway @ CPRONCR

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun-248001
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
Tel. No. : 0135-2763672-75, Fax : 0135-2760289

No. :- 300/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated: 27.06.2024
CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

This office e-tender specification no. CCP-II/1/2024-2025, invited previously, for supply of 5374 Nos. various types of C-Wedge Connectors is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00hrs. of 11.07.2024. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 12.07.2024 at 12:00hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in. Superintending Engineer Corporate (C&P-II)

"Save Electricity in the Interest of the Nation" Use LED Bulb to save Electricity. (Toll Free -1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org." (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax : 0135-2760911)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

Name of Work with its location	Miscellaneous works in connection with reliability improvement of Traction Distribution Assets in the jurisdiction of OHE/NLDS & OHE/GZB
Approx. Cost of work	₹48,33,996.87
Earnest Money deposit	₹96,700/-
E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	04.07.2024 (00:00 hrs.) to 18.07.2024 (15:00 hrs.)
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	18.07.2024 (15:00 hrs.)
Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.:- 18-TRD-NLDS-2024-25 Dated : 26.06.2024	1930/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**
हरिद्वार
फ़ोन कोड:- 249404

संख्या: 76 / 05 / ई-4 / जीआरए(एडई) / 2021-22 दिनांक: 28 जून, 2024
जिज्ञासि

"उत्तराखण्ड समितित राज्य अभियंत्रण सेवा परीक्षा-2021"

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि "उत्तराखण्ड समितित राज्य अभियंत्रण सेवा परीक्षा-2021" हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : A-2/E-4/A.E./2021-22 दिनांक 01 सितम्बर, 2021 के सापेक्ष आयोजित लिखित प्रकृति (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) परीक्षा का दिव्यमंजन श्रेणी के पदों के सापेक्ष परीणाम विज्ञापित संख्या : 22 दिनांक: 28 अप्रैल, 2024 द्वारा घोषित सफल अभ्यर्थियों में सिविल अभियंत्रण में सहायक अभियन्ता पद हेतु अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों का साक्षात्कार दिनांक: 19 जुलाई, 2024 को एकल सत्र (प्रथम सत्र) में उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार में निर्धारित है। साक्षात्कार का विस्तृत कार्यक्रम दिनांक: 29.06.2024 को आयोग की वेबसाइट psc.uk.gov.in पर अपलोड कर दिया जायेगा।

2- यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रश्नपत्र परीक्षा के सापेक्ष अभ्यर्थन निरस्त किये गये अभ्यर्थियों की सूची व विस्तृत विज्ञापित भी उक्त वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करा दी गयी है।

(गिरधारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

**Appeal for Identification**

General public is hereby informed that one woman **Namely:** Unknown, **D/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 70 Yrs., **Height:** 5'2", **Sex:** Female, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour Petikot & Maroon Colour Saree, **Place of Recovery:** Found Dead near Flat No. 58, DDA Janta Flat, Sector-A6, Pocket-11, Mamoorpur, Narela, Delhi. The dead body of deceased preserved in Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, Jahangir Puri, Mortuary for identification.

In this regard **DD No. 58A, Dated 18.06.2024** has been lodged at **Police Station: Narela, Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S.: Narela, Delhi
DP/8239/ON/2024 Ph.: 7065036323, 9983332630

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of female **Namely:** Unknown, **W/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 50-52 Years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Black color Top and Green color salwar. who was found an Unconscious Condition near Lajwanti Garden flyover and admitted in DDU Hospital Delhi, doctor declared she was dead. In this regard a case **FIR/DD No. 65A dt. 19.06.2024** has been registered at **PS: Mayapuri, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: Mayapuri, Delhi
DP/8260/WD/2024 Ph. 8750871121

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No.: 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-10

The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Procurement of 315 MVA 400/220 KV Transformer along with NIPFES and Construction of 400 KV and 220 KV (AIS) Bays along with transformer plinth for erection, testing and commissioning of 315 MVA 400/220 KV Transformer and its associated work at 400 KV Substation Kashipur" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-09/2023-24 is hereby extended upto **11.07.2024 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2023_PTCU4_66529_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

RO 1113/HQPU/PTCUL Dated: 28.06.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
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**Public Works Department**
Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice
E-mail: tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in
NIT No.027/TC/EinC/PWD/2024-25 Dated- 24.06.2024

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLEW RRP-III in the district Bijapur for construction of 01 Bridge with estimated cost amounting Rs 773.28 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration)" of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 25.06.2024 and may be submitted upto to 17:00 Hrs. on 11.07.2024.


For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.

The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) and 4.4 B (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, Nirman Bhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/ Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>

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Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation

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Assignment No	Name of Assignment
SITDPHP_CS01	Sector Transformation Support Consultants Estimated value - \$3.97 million

- Interested firms/organizations should submit their EOI, valid for six (6) months, on or before 17:00 Hrs. of 29.07.2024. EOI standard template shall not be modified.

I may be CM, but Hemant is JMM's spearhead: Champai

'CM May Offer To Quit, But Hemant May Ask 'Chacha' To Continue'

Dhritiman.Ray@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: Champai Soren could offer to step down as Jharkhand CM for his predecessor Hemant Soren to take over the job again but the latter possibly wouldn't want a baton change before assembly polls later this year, the party's general secretary and national spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said Friday.

"In all likelihood, he (Hemant Soren) will ask his chacha (uncle) to complete the remainder of his tenure," Bhattacharya told TOI.

Hemant, executive president of JMM, will be the party's face going into campaigning for the assembly polls. "He will take over (the chief ministership) after the INDIA bloc returns to office with a thumping majority," the JMM spokesperson said.



Jharkhand CM Champai Soren (left) with Hemant Soren on Friday. Champai is No. 3 in the JMM hierarchy after Shibu Soren and Hemant

Before Hemant's release on bail in the land scam case, there was speculation that his wife Kalpana Murmu Soren would replace Champai. This was after she won the byelection to the Gandey segment in Giridih district.

BJP's state unit spoke of a widening rift in the JMM camp, involving Champai

and Kalpana, over the chief minister's chair. JMM dismissed any such possibility.

Champai is credited with galvanising JMM in Hemant's absence and leading the party to three significant victories in the Lok Sabha polls and helping INDIA bloc stage off BJP's challenge in all five tribal-dominant seats.

Hours after high court gave Hemant bail, Champai wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Satyameva Jayate! Satya parashan ho sakta hai, parajit nahi (The truth can be under stress but not defeated)."

He told the media after a cabinet meeting that he may be the CM, but Hemant was JMM's spearhead. "We contested the LS elections with Hemant's face in the forefront. He will be our natural leader and JMM's face in the assembly elections."

On whether he intended to make way for Hemant as CM, Champai said, "A decision in this regard will be taken by the party and its allies."

Champai, MLA from Seraikela, was a minister in Hemant's cabinet and No. 3 in the JMM hierarchy after Shibu Soren and his son, who was sworn in as CM on Feb 2.

Worried at way netas, writers are being jailed, gagged: Soren

Continued from P1

Soren, who had resigned as Jharkhand chief minister hours before his Jan 31 arrest to pave the way for Champai Soren to take over, walked out of Ranchi's Birsu Munda jail to chants of "jail ka tala toot gaya, Hemant Soren chhoot gaya" from a crowd of supporters.

"The Delhi CM (Arvind Kejriwal) is in jail... At times I get worried at the way politicians, CMs, ministers, social workers, writers and journalists are being imprisoned in recent times in an effort to muffle their voices," he said.

ED has alleged that Soren misused his position as CM to "unlawfully" acquire the land in Baragani. It said witnesses it had examined alleged Soren's involvement.

Additional solicitor general S V Raju, representing ED, said Soren's media consultant Abhishek Prasad had informed the agency that the ex-CM had instructed him to

'Soren release will help INDIA in polls'

Ubeat after the release of Hemant Soren, JMM and other constituents of INDIA bloc said the Jharkhand HC verdict would greatly impact the outcome of the upcoming assembly elections in the state and "reduce BJP's tally to a single digit". Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur said this would become a big issue in the assembly polls and "BJP will shrink completely in Jharkhand". RJD's Tejashwi Yadav said a false case was slapped against Soren to settle a political score. TNN

influence circle office employees of Baragani into altering official documents to change the nature and ownership of the land in the revenue records. He also mentioned that ED seized from Vinod Kumar, an aide of Soren, a construction plan for a banquet hall on the disputed land. The location and dimension of the land matches the 8.86-acre plot, the additional solicitor general said.

In the courtroom, Soren's counsel and SC advocate Kapil Sibal accused ED of tampering with evidence and producing false documents to frame his client in the land case. "The original landown-

er, Raj Kumar Pahan, filed for restoration of the land in his name and this has already been processed," he said.

Justice Mukhopadhyay, who completed hearing on Soren's bail plea on June 12 and reserved his order, said there was no reason for the alleged ousting not to have approached the authorities for redress if Soren acquired and possessed the land when he was not in govt.

Flanked by his wife, Gan-dey MLA Kalpana Murmu Soren, and senior JMM functionaries, Soren said his time in jail was an anxious period for Jharkhand's indigenous communities.

Man who killed beggar to fake his death for ₹60L held after 17 yrs

Agra: In a breakthrough in a 17-year-old insurance fraud case involving a beggar's death, 62-year-old Ramveer Singh, who was in hiding, was arrested in GB Nagar, police said Friday, reports Deepak Lavania.

On July 30, 2006, a car crashed near Agra Fort, catching fire and burning the driver alive. The vehicle was registered to Vijaypal Singh's son, Anil Singh. Vijaypal's "family friend" Ramveer Singh also identified the body as Anil's.

However, after investigation, police said the case involved embezzlement of insurance money, and the accused had, in fact, dressed a beggar in his own clothes and burned him alive in the car.

It was the Ahmedabad crime branch that uncovered the case by arresting the main accused Anil who was earlier thought to be "dead". Anil had an insurance policy of Rs 60 lakh and after obtaining his own "death certificate", the policy amount was claimed.



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In pre-poll budget, Shinde govt woos women, farmers with sops

New Schemes To Put ₹96,000 Crore Burden On Maha

Priyanka.Kakodkar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: After managing to win only 17 of 48 seats in the state in Lok Sabha polls, the Eknath Shinde govt pulled out all stops in its last budget before the assembly elections expected in Oct. The populist budget, tabled in the legislature on Friday, showered an array of sops on groups including women, youth, farmers, marginalised groups and the poor; including a Rs 1,500 subsidy for eligible women aged 21 to 60 each month patterned on Madhya Pradesh govt's Ladli Behna Yojana which was key to its return to office.

Among the other key sops are three free gas cylinders to 52 lakh households annually and free power to farmers with agricultural pumps of up to 7.5 horse power capacity. The new schemes alone will cost the cash-strapped state Rs 96,000 crore. The budget al-



Maharashtra finance minister Ajit Pawar and MoS Deepak Kesarkar. The subsidy for women is patterned on MP govt's Ladli Behna Yojana which was key to its return to office

ready shows the strain with revenue deficit projected at Rs 20,051 crore and debt at Rs 7.8 lakh crore. This is Rs 71,713 crore higher than last year and 2.6 times higher than the debt figure a decade ago.

The debt figure is similar to that in the interim budget presented in Feb, though the new budget has a host of new schemes. The budget does not impose new taxes. On the contrary, it has reduced tax on petrol and diesel in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai. So petrol will be cheaper by 65 paise and die-

sel by Rs 2 per litre. The state will have to forego tax revenue worth Rs 200 crore as a result.

Trying to allay concerns about massive pre-election spend, state finance minister Ajit Pawar said it was within fiscal limits. He said govt had resources to pay for the sops. "The state's GST is expected to grow by 15.8% over last year. GST and VAT is set to rise by Rs 25,000 crore. We are also expecting a rise in funds received from Centre," he said. He said the state could present supplementary demands for additional funds after the budget.

"We will still reach our goal of becoming a \$ 1 trillion economy. This budget is for all sections of the society," said chief minister Eknath Shinde.

In an outreach to women, the state's Mukhya Mantri Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana patterned on MP govt's scheme, which will provide a subsidy of Rs 1,500 to eligible women, will roll out in July and will cost the state Rs 46,000 crore per year. Also, Mukhya Mantri Annapurna Yojana, which will provide three free gas cylinders, is set to cost Rs 1,400 crore annually.

ED attaches ₹29cr assets of Kerala CPM in bank fraud case

Kochi: In a major blow to Kerala's governing CPM in Karuvannur bank fraud case, ED has provisionally attached landed property of its local committee in Thrissur and at least eight bank accounts linked to the party. The assets are valued at Rs 29 crore.

ED sources said the investigation was carrying out PMLA probe by considering the party as a respondent. This is the third such attachment of assets in the case, they said.

The attached land in Porathissery area is in the name of party district secretary MM Varghese. As per ED, the bank accounts, with over Rs 60 lakh in them, include two FDs of district committee, a savings account of an area committee and 5 other accounts suspected to be linked to CPM. **TNN**

25 years ago, BJP factor led to SAD split, Badal-Tohra feud

IP.Singh@timesgroup.com

Jalandhar: As infighting rages in Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), with Sukhbir Singh Badal camp accusing BJP of engineering a rebellion in his party, old-timers recall how 25 years ago, it was BJP that had become a factor that split SAD and worsened the feud between then Punjab CM and SAD president Parkash Singh Badal and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Gurcharan Singh Tohra, leading to a coup against two top Sikh authorities — Akal Takht jathedar and SGPC chief.

In middle of 1998, Parkash Singh Badal had sparred with Tohra, with Badal's loyalist executive members in SGPC sacking Akal Takht jathedar Bhairan Singh. Then, after Tohra was shoved out, ministers loyal to him quit the Badal cabinet.

Tohra had then formed Sarb Hind Shiromani Akali Dal and contested the 2002 assembly elections, which Badal's SAD lost. The

feud began with Tohra questioning BJP's "Congress-like" attitude towards Punjab on important issues and saying that days of unconditional support to BJP-led central govt of NDA were over.

Tohra's suggestion in Dec 1998 to appoint a working president of the party was trigger for an all-out war.

After Tohra's criticism, then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee met him and Badal together. Mentioning this sitting and Tohra's one-on-one meeting with Vajpayee to flag issues that had hurt Punjabi sentiments, political commentator Jagtar Singh wrote in his book, 'Khalistan Struggle a Non-movement', that: "In his (Tohra's) perception, there was little difference between Congress and BJP govt in Delhi so far as Akali Dal was concerned."

BJP had then claimed that Badal had briefed Vajpayee and then Union minister LK Advani and received their assurance that BJP MLAs will come to his rescue if Tohra group withdrew its support.

Jaishankar to represent India at SCO summit: With PM Narendra Modi deciding to skip SCO summit, foreign minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the event in Astana on July 3-4 which will likely be attended by Russia President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. This offers India a platform for pursuing its economic and security interests in Central Asia, and Afghanistan. **TNN**

Bihar Museum Society, Patna
(An Autonomous Organization Under the Department of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar, Registered Under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860)

Notice

Tender Notice with PR Number 018801 (ART & Culture), 2023-24 dated 6th March with ID 135127, dated 4th March 2024 for PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES (Ex-Army Personnel & Civilian Security for Bihar Museum, Patna on outsource which was published in News Papers and Website, is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

PR. No. 002856 (Art & Culture) 2024-25

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput)
Additional Director Admin (I/C)
Bihar Museum, Patna

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Bihar Museum Society, Patna
(An Autonomous Organization Under the Department of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar, Registered Under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860)

Notice

Tender Notice with PR Number 018796 (Youth & ART), 2023-24 dated 6th March with ID 135118, dated 4th March 2024 for PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES (Ex-Army Personnel & Civilian Security for Patna Museum, Patna on outsource which was published in News Papers and Website, is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

PR- 002860 (Art & Culture) 2024-25

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput)
Additional Director Admin (I/C)
Bihar Museum, Patna

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।
ई-निविदा सूचना (द्वितीय बार)

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज में निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दुसरा बिड ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्रामेन्ट की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> से प्राप्त देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मांग की गयी जमानत को भनराई एम्प्लॉयीआर/सीओआर को रकम कमी के रूप में सौंपन करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो मुख्य अभियंता (वि/या), नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम पेशे होगा। बिना जमानत को भनराई के निविदा अर्हक मानी जायेगी। निविदा प्रकाशन के निर्धारित तिथि तक निविदा शुल्क की भनराई नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर बैंक, निविल लान्ड्स, प्रयागराज शाखा में डेपॉजिट करके खाता संख्या- 100116210130 या IFSCCode: INDB0000124 में जमा करना होगा। किसी को रकम तथा जमानत भनराई का सीओओआर/एम्प्लॉयीआर को रकम कमी निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। उक्त की अनुपस्थिति में निविदा अर्हक मानी जायेगी। बिना किसी कारण बिना निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त महोदय को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्य-दिवस मानी जायेगी।

निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	29.06.2024	अपराह्न 4:00 बजे से
निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि <th>15.07.2024</th> <th>अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक</th>	15.07.2024	अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि <th>15.07.2024</th> <th>सयंकाल 4:00 बजे तक</th>	15.07.2024	सयंकाल 4:00 बजे तक

क्र. सं.	कार्य/वाहन का विवरण	निविदा कार्य का मूल्य	प्रयोजन की धनराशि
1	नये प्रकार विन्दुओं की स्थापना हेतु आवश्यक सामग्रियों की युनिट दरें प्राप्त किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में।	रु. 10,000.00 + 18% की.एस.टी.	रु 2,00,000.00

नोट:- निगम व श्रौंको का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।

मुख्य अभियंता (वि/या)
नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING RETAIL LIQUOR ZONES IN TWENTY-ONE (21) DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2024-25.

1. It is notified for the information of general public that e-tenders for allotment of 163 retail liquor zones of country liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor Vends (L-2/L-14A) in 21 districts in the State of Haryana are hereby invited for the excise policy year 2024-25. The district wise detail of zones available for e-bidding is as under :-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Zone Code
1.	Ambala	ZAMB01 ZAMB04 ZAMB08 ZAMB10 ZAMB11 ZAMB37
2.	Bhiwani	ZBWN04 ZBWN05 ZBWN06 ZBWN16 ZBWN18 ZBWN20 ZBWN24 ZBWN25 ZBWN26 ZBWN37 ZBWN40 ZBWN41 ZBWN42 ZBWN44 ZBWN45 ZBWN46 ZBWN47 ZBWN48 ZBWN49 ZBWN50 ZBWN51 ZBWN52 ZBWN53 ZBWN54
3.	Faridabad	ZFBD08 ZFBD13 ZFBD16 ZFBD23 ZFBD26 ZFBD43
4.	Fatehabad	ZFTB17 ZFTB26 ZFTB37 ZFTB43
5.	Gurugram (East)	ZGRE01 ZGRE08 ZGRE24 ZGRE26 ZGRE29 ZGRE31
6.	Gurugram (West)	ZGRW08 ZGRW77
7.	Hisar	ZHSR01 ZHSR02 ZHSR05 ZHSR07 ZHSR08 ZHSR21 ZHSR29 ZHSR34 ZHSR38 ZHSR44 ZHSR48 ZHSR49 ZHSR51 ZHSR52 ZHSR58 ZHSR64
8.	Jagadhari	ZJAG06 ZJAG41 ZJAG42 ZJAG43
9.	Jhajjar	ZJHA04 ZJHA22 ZJHA24 ZJHA29
10.	Jind	ZJND03 ZJND05 ZJND10 ZJND15 ZJND16 ZJND20 ZJND28 ZJND29 ZJND34
11.	Kaithal	ZKTL02 ZKTL06 ZKTL11 ZKTL29
12.	Karnal	ZKNL03 ZKNL18 ZKNL21 ZKNL24 ZKNL25 ZKNL26 ZKNL31 ZKNL34 ZKNL35 ZKNL51 ZKNL52
13.	Kurukshetra	ZKKR01 ZKKR06 ZKKR28
14.	Mewat	ZMWT06
15.	Narnaul	ZNNL10 ZNNL18 ZNNL19 ZNNL22 ZNNL23 ZNNL28
16.	Panchkula	ZPKL08 ZPKL09 ZPKL21 ZPKL22 ZPKL23 ZPKL25 ZPKL26 ZPKL36
17.	Panipat	ZPNP09 ZPNP10 ZPNP15 ZPNP16 ZPNP21 ZPNP25
18.	Rewari	ZRWR01 ZRWR04 ZRWR05 ZRWR14 ZRWR22 ZRWR27 ZRWR29 ZRWR31
19.	Rohtak	ZRTK05 ZRTK08 ZRTK18 ZRTK27 ZRTK46 ZRTK47
20.	Sirsa	ZSRS14 ZSRS15 ZSRS17 ZSRS43 ZSRS45 ZSRS47 ZSRS73
21.	Sonepat	ZSNP39 ZSNP50 ZSNP61 ZSNP73

2. The schedule for submission of e-bids for these zones and evaluation thereof shall be as under :-

Starting date and time for placing e-tenders	From 1 st July, 2024 (9.00 AM)
Closing date and time for placing e-tenders	Till 1 st July, 2024 (04.00 PM)
Evaluation of e-tenders	1 st July, 2024 (5.00 PM)

3. The reserve price and quota of these 163 zones for the purpose of e-tendering has been decided as per the provisions of clause 2.16 and other relevant provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25.

The zone-wise detail of reserve price and quota of these 163 zones shall be displayed in the excise arrangement.

4. The e-tenders for these zones can be submitted online through the official website of the department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The remaining terms and conditions of e-tenders and allotment of zones shall be same, as informed vide the Public Notice, published in leading newspapers on 18th May, 2024, for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana. The copy of Public Notice dated 18th May, 2024 is also available on the official website of department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The detailed procedure of registration for participation in the allotment process and submission of e-tenders is also available on the official website.

4. The excise arrangements of these zones containing number of vends, liquor quota, location of vends, command area as applicable and reserve price thereof, as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETCs (Excise) and DETCs (ST) of the districts concerned. These details shall also be available on the official website i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in.

5. All allotment(s) and grant of licence(s) shall be subject to the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, the rules framed thereunder, orders/instructions issued by the competent authority and the Excise Policy for the year 2024-25. Any clarification regarding the procedure may be obtained from the office of DETCs (Excise) in any of the districts. The copy of Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2024-25 is available on official website of the department.

6. All allotments of licenses are subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Financial Commissioner). The ETC (FC) may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be, within 10 days of the date of allotment. In case no decision of Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC) is conveyed within the stipulated period of ten days, the allotment shall be deemed to have been approved by the ETC (FC).

Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana.

Issued through DPR/Haryana/Adv. No. 2721/128.06.2024

PUNJAB ENGINEERING COLLEGE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
Sector-12, Chandigarh-160012

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR FOUR RESERVED CATEGORIES OF B.TECH. PROGRAMMES

Online applications for B.Tech. admissions under the four reserved categories of Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandits/ Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir Valley, Sports persons, Sons/ Daughters/ Spouses of Military/ Paramilitary personnel and Children/ Grand children of Freedom Fighters are invited from **01.07.2024 to 12.07.2024**. Interested candidates may visit the institute website <https://pec.ac.in/admissions/btech> for the necessary registration and other details.

Note: B.Tech. Admissions under the general category and SC/ ST/ PwD/ EWS categories are being conducted through JoSAA/ CSAB 2024.

Chairman Admissions

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 38/2024

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) North Eastern Railway Itanagar for and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

S.No.-1, Description of works: Deep Screening of supply line at different stations in Kanpur Anwarganj-Kasganj Section Total length = 8.675 Km (Under Sanctioned work of TBR on loops CPA-KSJ 8.675 km, of Itanagar Division). Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 3,77,71,073.90, E.M.D. Money (Rs.): ₹ 3,38,900/-, Cost of Tender Forms (Rs): Nil, Completion time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 12 Months. S.No.-2, Description of works: Improvement of Drainage by muck removal, Cess height correction from station yards & block sections in the jurisdiction of ADEN/FGR. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 2,45,47,176.64, E.M.D. Money (Rs): ₹ 2,72,700/-, Cost of Tender Forms (Rs): Nil, Completion time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 12 Months. S.No.-3, Description of works: Supplying and loading of machine crushed stone ballast into railway wagons conforming to RDSO's specification IRS-GE-1 (June-2016) with up-to-date correction slips for track ballast from private quarry to Mendu depot. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 7,04,15,251.32, E.M.D. Money (Rs): ₹ 5,02,100/-, Cost of Tender Forms (Rs): Nil, Completion time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 08 Months.

(1) On line e-tender can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs. of date 22-07-2024.

(2) For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway EREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) CPWO-V-134 Itanagar

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum

Tender No.:70/24/1135 Date: 25/06/2024. The Following corrigendum is prepared against the T/Case No.70/24/1135, re-schedule of Pre-Bid Conference to be held on 04/07/2024. **Date of Pre-Bid Conference :-** From(Existing): 26/06/2024. **To Be Read As:** 04/07/2024.

PR/5493 AMM/HQ/CLW/CRI

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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow invites E-Auction for following work. Admin Unit/Zone: Lucknow-NER-Division-Commercial/North Eastern Railway, Auction catalogue No./Lot no.: L/JN-FSLR-13-24, Catalogue Published on: 24-06-2024 at 13:41 Hrs, Auction Start (All Lots): 11-07-2024 at 13:00 hrs, Auction close Date/Time: 12-07-2024 at 12:10 hrs, Auction Type: Close Ended, Website particulars where complete details of auction can be seen by registered bidders: E-Auction Module of www.ireps.gov.in

Assistant Commercial Manager CPWO-C-68 Lucknow

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD
MODIFICATION OF 66 KV ELECTRICAL OVERHEAD TRACING CROSSING

E-Tender Notice No. ELJ/ADI/GSI/276/2024-25 (1) Name of work and its location: Modification of 66 KV Electrical overhead track crossing including dismantling, stringing & commissioning by laying of underground cable under the track at Kms 360-1 (D/C) and 262-3 (S/C) in connection with gauge conversion project of Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma section. (2) Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 1,36,26,088/- (3) Earnest Money to be deposited: As specified on IREPS portal (4) Date and time of submission and opening of bid: As specified on IREPS portal (5) Completion Period of work: 06 Months (6) Website particular and Notice Board where details of tender can be seen and address of the office: Website: www.ireps.gov.in, Notice board and Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Nirman Bhavan, Asarva, Ahmedabad (Gujarat-382345) **CPW-14**

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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING STORES, ETC.

CPM / Gati Shakti Unit, South East Central Railway, Nagpur, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the execution of below mentioned work: **Tender Notice No.:** CPM-GSU-07-NGP-2024-25

Name of the Work: Construction of Building Stores, etc. for augmentation of overhauling facilities (CBR-I & CBR-II) at Motibagh Warehouse, Nagpur.

Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 12,38,53,985/-

Bid Security: ₹ 7,69,300/-

Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to 15:00 Hrs on 18.07.2024.

Manual offers are not allowed against the Tenders and any such manual offer received shall be rejected. Details are available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer - GSU, South East Central Railway, Nagpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/39 Dated: 24/06/2024. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. SL.No.: Tender No.: Description of Stores: Quantity: Due On: Tender Cost as follows: [121]: 31241179: Temperature Sensor Oil Circuit Transformer As Per CLW's Spec.No. CLW/ES/3/0033/3. (Scope of supply shall be as per Category No. N/0/0122, C&D No.T017/199 as on date of tender opening available in CLW website); As Per Tender Document; 19/07/2024; ₹ 0.00. [1213]: 31241192: 1. C Panel Kit according to Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0240/8 Set details and Scope of supply as per Category No. P/0/0282, C&D No. T022/203, T022/199 & T022/201 as on date of tender opening available in CLW website); As Per Tender Document; 15/07/2024; ₹ 0.00. [1215]: 31241169: Battery Box Complete & General Arrangement of Battery Box ASSY as per Draw. No. 1209.06.138-001 ALT.8, 1209.06.138-002 ALT.1 as per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/037 ALT.9; As Per Tender Document; 02/09/2024; ₹ 0.00. [1216]: 31241175: Master Controller, As Per CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0031/Alt. 1 (Scope of supply shall be as per Category No. N/0/0056, C&D No.T031/259 & T031/167 as on date of tender opening available in CLW website); As Per Tender Document; 09/09/2024; ₹ 0.00. PRS/496 PCMM/CLW/HWH

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Guj HC: Insurer must pay even if passengers were travelling in goods vehicle

Ahmedabad: Insurance companies must compensate victims of motor accidents, even if the passengers were travelling illegally in a goods vehicle, Gujarat HC has ruled. The insurer can later recover the amount from the vehicle owner, HC said. The case involved a tanker accident in Banaskantha in May 1995, which resulted in injuries and fatalities among the passengers. Five claims were made under Motor Vehicles Act. In 2005, a tribunal ordered New India Assurance Co Ltd to compensate the victims and later reclaim the amount from the tanker owner, as the vehicle was insured.

The insurance company contested this decision in HC, arguing that it should not be held responsible for illegal passengers in a goods vehicle. They maintained that the vehicle's insurance did not cover passengers since it was meant to carry only one person, and the vehicle owner violated provisions of MV Act.

After hearing the case, Justice Sandeep Bhatt said, "The manifest object of provisions of MV Act is to ensure that the party, who suffers injuries due to use of motorcycle, will be able to get damages for the injuries sustained or death. If a goods vehicle is used for carrying passengers, against the insurance policy, as is in the case on hand, the claimants cannot suffer for technicalities of whether the owner/insurance company should pay the amount." **TNN**

Stalker kills BTEch student's father in Andhra:

A 26-year-old physical education trainer at a private college stabbed to death father of a woman he had been stalking over the past four years in Vijayawada on Thursday. Police said Siva Manikanta attacked K Sri Rama-chandra Prasad (56), in front of the woman and fled. A murder case was filed against Manikanta, cops said. **TNN**

Central Ayurveda Research Institute
Road No.66, Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi-110026

Under Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India

E-mail: cari.delhi2023@gmail.com / acri-delhi@gov.in

Advertisement No.02/2024-25
WALK IN INTERVIEW

A walk in interview for engagement of Senior Research Fellow (SRF) (Ayurveda) on contractual basis will be held on **09/07/2024 (Tuesday) at 10.30 A.M.** at above address. For eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions, please log on to Council's website www.ccras.nic.in

CBC 17216/11/0008/2425 **Director (Institute)**

केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेद अनुसंधान संस्थान
Central Ayurveda Research Institute
Road No.66, Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi-110026

Under Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India

E-mail: cari.delhi2023@gmail.com / acri-delhi@gov.in

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CBC 17216/11/0008/2425 **Director (Institute)**

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग सर्कुलर नोट, रॉजी-834001

प्रेस विज्ञापित

महिला, बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा विभाग, झारखण्ड अन्तर्गत "बाल विकास परियोजना पदाधिकारी" प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा (विज्ञापन संख्या-21/2023) के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा दिनांक-10.06.2024 को आयोजित महिला, बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा विभाग, झारखण्ड अन्तर्गत "बाल विकास परियोजना पदाधिकारी" प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा (विज्ञापन संख्या-21/2023) के सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रथम-पत्र) एवं सामान्य अध्ययन (द्वितीय-पत्र) का 'मॉडल उत्तर' आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpssc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

2. परीक्षार्थी मॉडल उत्तर के विरुद्ध अपने आपत्ति/सुझाव दिनांक-27.06.2024 से दिनांक-30.06.2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpssc.gov.in में उपलब्ध कराये गये लिंक पर अपना e-mail id /Phone Number /Candidate Id एवं Password डालकर विषयवार संबंधित प्रश्न के विरुद्ध परीक्षार्थी द्वारा सुझाया गया उत्तर (आधार /साक्ष्य /Source के साथ) दे सकते हैं।

3. यह प्रेस विज्ञापित आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpssc.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

हो / -

PR.NO.327957 Jharkhand Public Service Commission(24-25):D परीक्षा नियंत्रक, झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, रॉजी।

Tender Notice - 20 (2024-25).
Project Implementation Unit, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
(Health & Family Welfare Dept.)

Online tenders for Health Care facilities Civil works of Various Districts Gujarat as below are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, NRHM/PIU Building, 4th Floor, Civil Hospital Campus, Gandhinagar-382012, Ph. 079-23231434, 23231393.

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4- Zone-4 - Bharuch, Surat, Narmada, Tapi, Dang, Navsari, Valsad

Interested consultants can download RFP documents from www.nprocure.com and submit the tender online. Last date of online submission is **dttd. 19/07/2024 upto 18.00 Hrs.** Submission of Tender Fee, EMD & Other Documents on **dttd.20-07-2024 to Dtd 24-07-2024 upto 18.00 Hrs.**, by R.P.A.D. Technical Bid Opening of the tender dttd. 19-07-2024 at 18.05 Hrs., Pre Bid Meeting Dtd 11-07-2024 at 12.00 Hrs.

INF/320/24-25

Cong violated Constitution in letter & spirit, claims BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Continuing its aggressive pushback against Congress over the latter's accusation that BJP had plotted to subvert the Constitution, the saffron party on Friday accused the political opponent of hypocrisy and said the charge applied to the latter.

"Congress violated the Constitution both in letter and spirit. They changed the Preamble and by nullifying the Supreme Court verdict in the Shah Bano case, placed Sharia above the Constitution," BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said.

Initiating the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address, Trivedi also slammed Congress for its "Constitution-is-in-danger" allegation. "Two of their leaders get arrested and they allege that the Constitution is in danger. And this is coming from people who put the entire opposition in jail," he said.

Trivedi's attack during the debate, which was boycotted by Congress, was part of BJP's counter-offensive over the accusation that it had planned to change the Constitution to scrap caste quotas and yet another indication that the new front in their battle will remain hot in the immediate run.

BJP locked horns with Congress also over the quota charge, pointing to non-implementation of the recommendations of the Kaka Kalelkar panel on extending reservations to OBCs for several decades and former PM Rajiv Gandhi's speech opposing Mandal Commission's recommendation for 27% quota for OBCs.

HC: 'Hearing' under FCRA not limited to show-cause

► Continued from P 1

On the other hand, MHA argued there was no requirement in the law to grant a personal hearing before cancellation of the registration certificate.

HC's quashing order came on June 25. Justice M Nagaprasanna said Section 14(2) permits cancellation of registration and Sec 14(3) would bar such an entity from registration for three years. "Therefore, it cannot be said Sec 14(3) is restricted only to hearing and hearing would mean only issuance of a show-cause notice.

"Therefore, the words in the act — 'reasonable opportunity of being heard' — cannot be restricted to the issuance of a show-cause notice... A personal hearing, owing to the peculiar facts of the case as well as the peculiarity of Sec 14(3) of the act, should have been afforded to the petitioner. Non-allowing of personal hearing to the petitioner has rendered the order unsustainable and the unsustainability of it would lead to its obliteration. Let there be no confusion that there can always be a fusion between hearing and personal hearing," Justice Nagaprasanna observed while quashing the suspension and extension orders, the show-cause notice and the final cancellation order vis-a-vis the petitioner entity's registration under the act.

"In light of the quashing of the orders, the petitioner becomes entitled to all consequential benefits, including status quo ante. Liberty is, however, reserved in the Union of India if it finds necessary to act in accordance with law bearing in mind the observations made in the course of the order," the judge added.

Bridge collapses in Bihar again, fifth in nine days

Madhubani: Bihar was treated to the unseemly sight of its fifth bridge collapse in nine days when one such upcoming structure tumbled on Friday in Madhubani district, reports **C S Jha Azad**.

The bridge over the Bhuthi Balan river in Madhepur block was 75 metres long and had been under construction since 2021 by the rural works department at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. As the water levels rose, its girder collapsed and crashed into the river.

Leader of opposition, RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, highlighted the collapse on social media and took potshots at the state's NDA govt.

80% of public health facilities are substandard: Govt survey

Govt To Make 70,000 Hosps IPHS Compliant In 1st 100 Days Of Modi 3.0

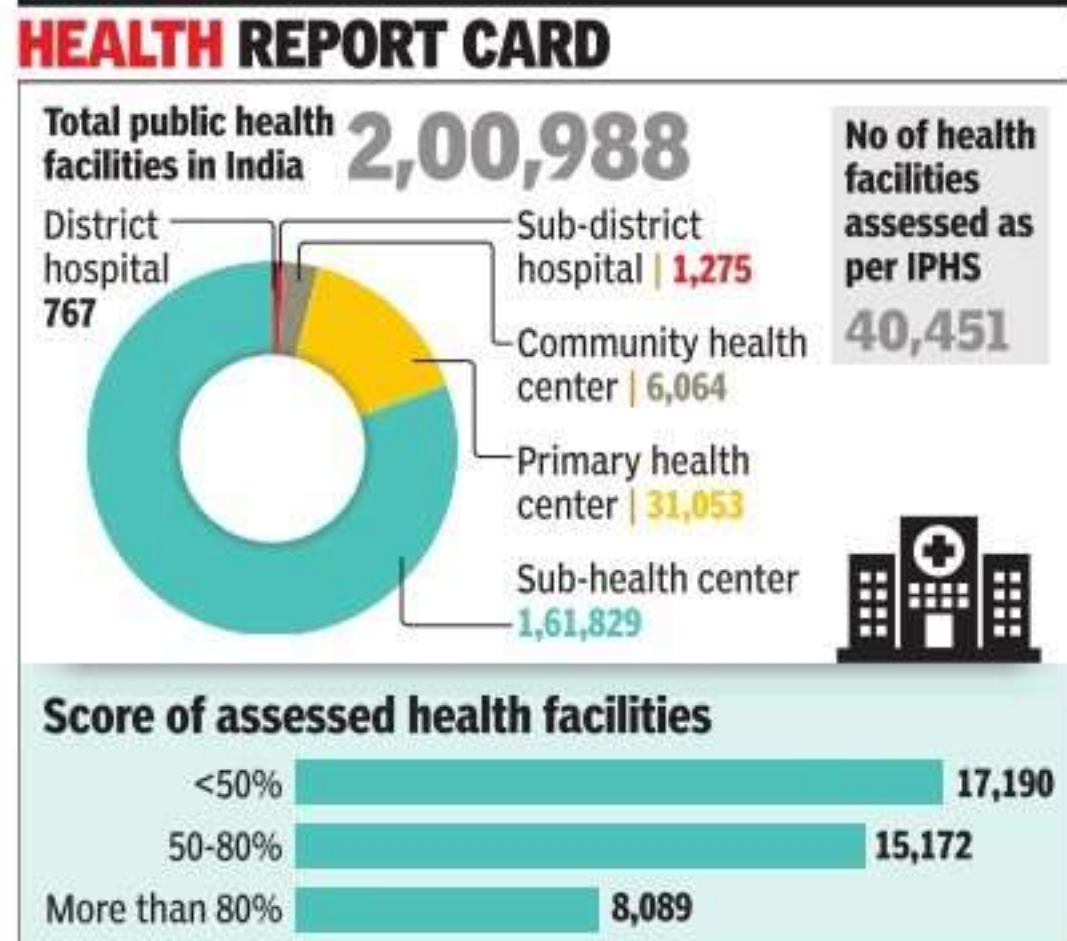
Durgesh Nandan Jha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Nearly 80% of public health facilities in India do not meet the minimum essential standards for infrastructure, manpower, equipment and other benchmarks set by govt.

This shocking detail has emerged from a self-assessment exercise carried out by govt in which public health facilities from states and UTs covered under the National Health Mission (NHM) were asked to fill in details, such as the number of doctors, nurses or basic medical equipment they have.

There are more than two lakh public healthcare facilities, including district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, community health centres, primary health centres, and Ayushman Arogya Mandir (erstwhile sub health centres) that are covered under NHM — a flagship scheme of govt. Of them, data shared by govt on the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) dashboard shows, 40,451 filled in key statistics about their respective facilities in the Open Data Kit — a digital tool — developed by the health ministry.

When the scoring was done based on the statistics shared, it was revealed that



only 8,089, approximately 20% of the facilities, scored 80% or higher which is needed to qualify as IPHS compliant. Simply put, these facilities had the required infrastructure, human resources, drugs, diagnostics and equipment available to provide essential services as desired.

Total 17,190 (42%) of the facilities that participated in the self-assessment exercise scored less than 50% while the rest, 15,172 facilities, scored anywhere between 50 to 80%. All these details have been put out in public domain on the IPHS dashboard. A senior

health ministry official said the self-assessment and its real time monitoring has been started to ensure that the health facilities maintain the required standards of infrastructure, equipment, and human resources, leading to better health outcomes and fostering a healthier and more equitable society.

The Centre, an official said, is aiming to make 70,000 health institutions IPHS compliant within the first 100 days of the new govt's formation. "The aim of this self-assessment exercise is to identify the gaps and push the states/

UTs to fill them with full support from the Centre so that quality of services provided to the public improves," a senior health ministry official said. She added that self-assessment is the first step and the Centre also plans to carry out surprise inspections to verify the claims being made by health facilities against the benchmarks set by IPHS.

While the IPHS assesses health facilities for basic services, National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) is another higher level of evaluation which rates them on the basis of best practices followed such as availability of essential medicines, equipment, waste management, infection control practices, support services and patient's rights. The official said that while NQAS assessment for district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres will continue to be carried out physically, they have introduced a new provision of virtual assessment for the Ayushman Arogya Mandir that constitute the highest number of public health facilities under NHM.

The Centre bears 60% of the expenditure in a public health facilities under the NHM while the rest of the expenditure is borne by the state.

No exemption in Pocco case on insanity plea alone: HC

Partha Behera @timesgroup.com

Raipur: A convict in a Pocco case cannot be exempted on grounds of mere insanity, Chhattisgarh high court has said, upholding the life imprisonment handed down by a fast-track court in Rajnandgaon. The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Sachin Singh Rajput, highlighted that exceptions to criminal liability must be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

On Nov 5, 2020, the convict took a six-year-old girl to his house and raped her. Her aunt filed a complaint. Medical tests and witness testimonies corroborated the survivor's account, following which a fast-track special court convicted the man on Jan 31, 2024, under IPC section 376AB and section 5(m) read

Given the severity of the crime and the victim's tender age, there is no ground for leniency, the HC dismissed the appeal

with Section 6 of Pocco Act, and sentenced him to life imprisonment till natural death.

The verdict was challenged in HC, with the defence counsel arguing that the convict was of 'unsound mind'. However, HC took note of the observations of psychiatrist Dr A S Saraf and jail superintendent Akshay Singh Rajput, who testified that the convict "displayed normal behaviour and understanding" during interactions and routine activities in jail. This evidence negated the defence's claim of insanity.

The high court concurred with the trial court's judgment and noted that the child's birth certificate puts her as a six-year-old at the time of rape. Given the severity of the crime and the victim's tender age, there is no ground for leniency, the high court said and dismissed the appeal. The convict will serve out the life sentence, the court ordered.

Govt to make printouts must for breathalyser equipment

Dipak Dash @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The govt on Friday issued a set of draft rules for improving the accuracy and reliability of breath analyser equipment, a move that will help law enforcement agencies in curbing incidents of drunken driving and also largely address the growing instances of commuters challenging drunk driving challans.

As per the draft notification of the consumer affairs department, instruments need to comply with specifications such as displaying only the final measurement result, including a printer to record results and ensuring the device does not operate without paper, providing additional printed information along with the blood alcohol concentration result, and reporting results in different formats, such as blood alcohol concentration in blood.

The new breath analysers will need to be verified and stamped according to the Legal Metrology Act while equipment that are under use will need to be verified and stamped within one year from the date of final notification. "This verification protects individuals



Printouts will largely address the growing instances of people challenging drunk driving challans. The new breath analysers will need to be verified and stamped according to the Legal Metrology Act

from wrongful penalties due to faulty equipment and helps maintain the integrity of legal and workplace policies," the department said.

Breath analyser calibration is the process of checking and adjusting the sensor within the equipment to ensure it displays an accurate reading. A random study by Delhi-based Institute for Road Traffic Education a few years back had found that 30 out of 40 samples of breath analysers were faulty.

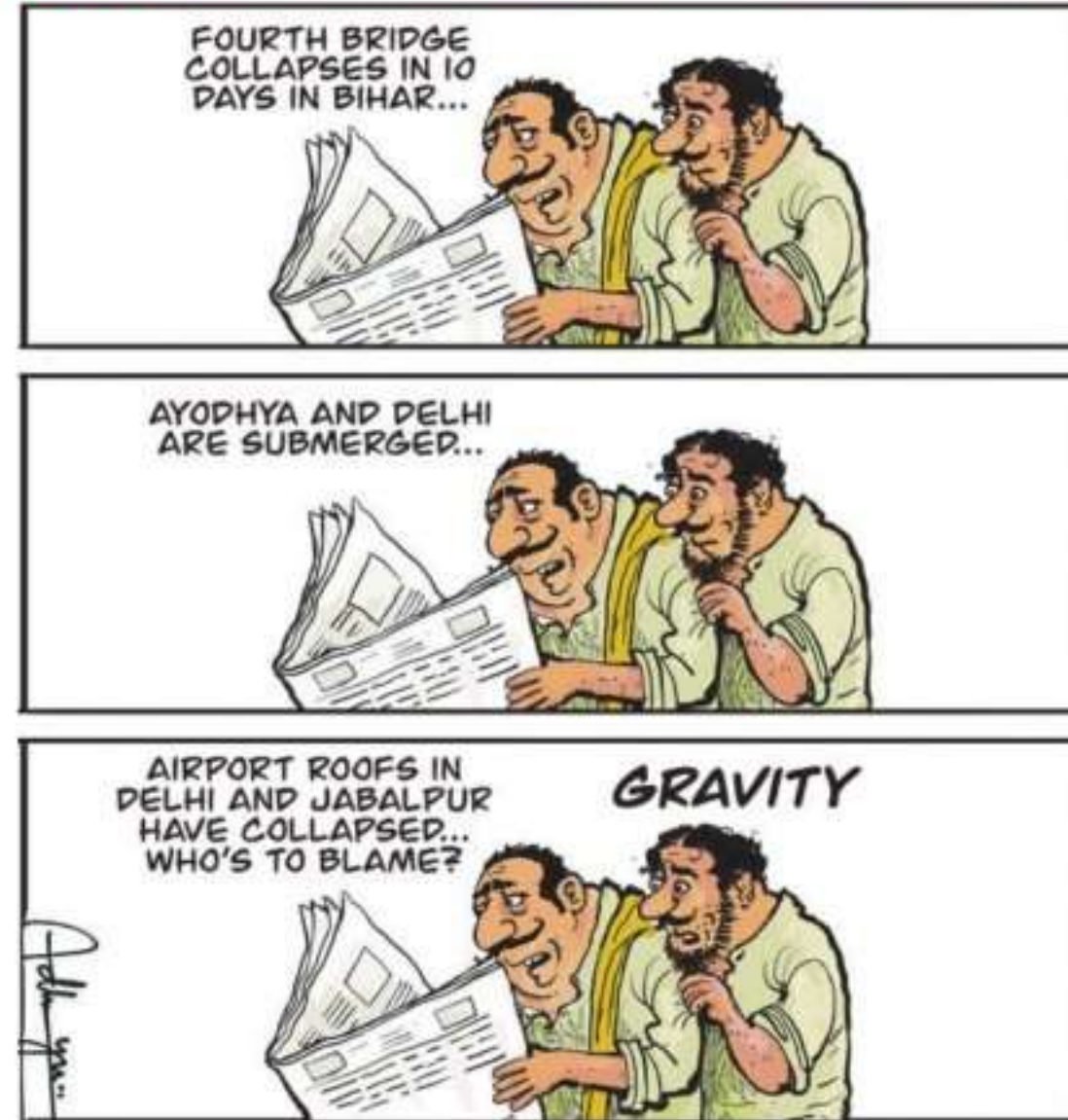
The department will also come out with the norms mandating the verification and calibration of microwave doppler radar equipment used to measure vehicle speed. As per the proposed norm for "radar equipment for measurement of vehicle speed", all such equipment which will be installed after the final notification, shall be verified and stamped within one year. All

radar equipment that are already installed shall be verified and stamped as and when their re-verification becomes due.

"The radar shall satisfy the conditions prescribed in the rules when the results of measurement are to be used in legal proceedings," said the draft rule. It also specifies that if a radar records the results of measurement, it will indicate the date and time of the measurement, the measured speed and the vehicle's direction of travel.

Welcoming govt's move, road traffic experts said once the rules come into effect, it will bring down the number of complaints against faulty challans for traffic rule violation. They said this has become important since govt has increased fines manifold for violation of speed limit and drunk driving in the amended motor vehicle law.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



EVMs saved 2L trees by replacing LS poll ballot paper: Minister

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The recent Lok Sabha result has not only proved the accuracy of the electronic voting machine (EVM) but it also demonstrated their positive environmental impact saving two lakh trees which would have otherwise been used to make ballot papers, said environment minister Bhopender Yadav.

He said the EVM not only "unmasked the opposition's lies" but also showed how it could lead India towards one of the big climate actions in the country through conservation of trees.

Yadav was addressing Times Network India Climate Summit here on a day the Capital recorded more than three times the June rainfall in just 24 hours, signalling again how climate change is leading to extreme weather events more frequently.

The minister on the occasion also criticised the AAP-led Delhi govt for its "inaction" in the capital which faced waterlogging following torrential rains of a few hours. "The primary reason for waterlogging is the clogging of drains due to polythene. We

need to bring changes in personal behaviour, and this should also be part of local governance," he said.

Attributing waterlogging to plastic waste-induced clogged drains, Yadav said, "We banned single-use plastic (SUP) and also asked the Delhi govt to take action. We asked the Delhi govt's industry department several times to close down these (SUP manufacturing) units."

Responding to questions during a session at the Summit, he said these manufacturing units have not only contributed to environmental hazards but also experienced industrial disasters, and yet the "Delhi govt has remained inactive".

Yadav during his address appealed to people for environmentally conscious action in their day-to-day life in tune with 'Mission Life', launched by PM Modi in October 2022, that calls for mindful utilisation of resources minimising waste and making green choices.

He also urged everyone to plant trees in a big way, taking a cue from Prime Minister's appeal of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' made on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5.

After fighting rapist stepdad, 3 minor siblings now battle HIV

Hyderabad: The ordeal of three minor siblings from Chandanagar, repeatedly raped by their stepfather for over a month, is far from over. Even as a special Pocco court sentenced the accused to 20-year rigorous imprisonment on Thursday, the children have another battle to fight — HIV, reports Pinto Deepak.

"Since the accused stated in court that he is HIV+, the children were also tested. Results show they too are HIV+," said an official associated with the investigation. While the two minor girls — aged 10 and 14 — are living in a home in the city, the seven-year-old boy has been put in another facility.

"Medical help is being extended to all four — the accused and the survivors," the official added.

The crime first came to light two years ago when the survivors shared the traumatic ordeal with their neighbour, a 46-year-old woman.

Dhankhar, oppn in war of words as Cong MP faints in RS

New Delhi: In the midst of protests by opposition members in Rajya Sabha, Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam from Chhattisgarh fainted in the post-lunch session. As MPs and staff rushed to help, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar adjourned the House briefly as doctors examined her and took her to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where she was treated and discharged later in the day.

After the RS re-convened, opposition MPs walked out, continuing their protest over NEET and claiming that the chair continued with proceedings even after Netam, who is recovering from dengue, took ill and was taken for emergency care. Dhankhar defended himself and said, "I have taken all steps, suspended working of the House. All arrangements were made and that was the most that could be done. Everything is being taken care of." **TNN**

Landslide in Shimla, flash flood in Solan as monsoon hits HP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu: As monsoon advanced to Himachal Pradesh on Friday, heavy rains triggered flash floods in Solan and landslides and rockslides in Shimla damaging at least eight parked vehicles. No loss of life was reported. Delayed by five days, southwest monsoon had hit several parts of the hill state on Thursday.

For Saturday and Sunday, the meteorological department has issued "orange warning" of very heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour and Solan districts. The weather department has also issued a "yellow warning" of heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places on Monday and Tuesday, and predicted a wet spell in Himachal till next Thursday.

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Friday that his govt was fully prepared



People trying to extract vehicles buried under a debris in Shimla after a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall on Friday

to deal with any potential disaster-related challenges during the season. He said all departments have been instructed to remain vigilant and responsive to any potential emergency. The Disaster Management Authority was working in coordination with various departments to ensure implementation of all preventive measures, he added.

The CM said adequate manpower and machinery

have been deployed at identified vulnerable locations. Regular mock drills are being conducted and training related to disaster management is being provided to field staff and other officials. Apart from this, regular meetings on disaster preparedness have been conducted with all the district administrations, he said, urging people to remain cautious and not venture near rivers and rivulets.

All police stations to organise public interface on new criminal laws

Bharti Jain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Coinciding with commencement of the three new criminal laws on July 1, the officer-in-charge of each police station in the country will organise a public interface to highlight the key features of and the intent behind enactment of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA).

The educational-cum-familiarisation programme, which may be organised at the police station or any other suitable place, will involve women, youth, students, senior citizens, retired police officers, eminent personalities; and members of self-

help groups, anganwadi centres and local peace committees, besides representatives from educational institutions like schools, colleges etc. The aim, as per home ministry sources, is to spread awareness regarding the two key objectives behind replacement of the British-era IPC, CrPc and Indian Evidence Act with the new criminal laws — 'Citizens First, Dignity First and Justice First' and replacement of 'danda' (baton) with 'data' as a policing tool.

The launch of the three new criminal laws will also witness organising of day-long activities like focused group discussions, workshops, seminars, Q&A sessions and quizzes on the new



The three new criminal laws will come into effect from July 1

laws, at all the higher education institutions under UGC, AICTE and CFI as well as those in the states and UTs. The purpose is to highlight the major transformation intended to

achieve the ends of justice.

BNS, BNSS and BSA, by replacing the British-era IPC, CrPc and Indian Evidence Act, aim to enhance the use of technology in investigation and trial of crimes. Around two dozen modifications have been made in the Crime and Criminals Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) software to make it technologically compatible with the new criminal laws and a host of mobile applications like NCRB Sankalan, e-Sakshya, Nyay Shruti and e-Summon put in place to ease the transition.

According to MHA sources, CCTNS 2.0 application — a modified version of the software that e-connects police stations, forensics, prosecu-

tion, courts and prisons — will include provision for videography of the crime scene and forensic evidence collection, supported by secure cloud storage.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) had in March this year launched a mobile application 'Sankalan' or compendium of the new criminal laws that has been uploaded on the websites of NCRB, ministry of home affairs, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVNPA) and Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT), as also Google and iOS platforms. Sankalan breaks down the provisions of the new criminal

codes, highlighting in a tabulated form the changes introduced through BNS, BNSS and BSA and the provisions in the three laws corresponding to sections of the old criminal codes.

A home ministry official said there are approximately 1.2 lakh users of the Sankalan app.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) too has developed other mobile applications like eSakshya (for electronically recording evidence including forensics), NyayShruti (for judicial hearings) and eSummon (electronic delivery of court summons).

eSakshya is a mobile-based application to help the police record the scene of crime, search and seizure in a

criminal case and upload the files on a cloud-based platform. Each recording can be up to four minutes and several such files may be uploaded for each FIR. The police officer concerned will need to upload a selfie after the procedure. The application has been shared with the police department of all the states and UTs, which have tested it.

Nyay Shruti app, which facilitates judicial hearings through electronic means and onboarding of documents, has also been shared with all the states/UTs and an e-Committee of the Supreme Court for implementation of the courts.

eSummon app facilitates delivery of court summons electronically.

(Continued...)

Director General

Evidence shows more people involved in test racket, Guj court told

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vadodara: The scope of CBI's probe into the NEET-UG malpractice case in Gujarat has widened with evidence emerging of more people being involved in the racket than initially presumed, CBI told a Godhra court Friday while seeking custody of four out of five suspects arrested by police.

Since taking over the Godhra case, CBI has inspected multiple NEET centres and residences of the accused. Several people have been interrogated, including parents of students whose names figure among those suspected of having paid large amounts of money in exchange for leaked questions and answer keys.

Godhra, headquarters of Panchmahal district, was the suspected epicentre of the racket. CBI counsel told the court that students were "induced" into picking Gujarati as their preferred language for the test and Godhra as the centre. CBI said the modus operandi of those involved in the racket was the same last year.

The centres where the malpractice occurred were Jay Jalaram School in Godhra and another near Wanakbori. Both are run by Dixit Patel, who was among those questioned Thursday by CBI. The four arrested men whose custody CBI has sought are Arif Vahora, Purshottam Sharma, Vibhor

NEET case kingpin linked to several leaks: Bihar EOU

Sanjiv Mukhia, the alleged mastermind of NEET paper leak case, also orchestrated the leak of Bihar PSC Teacher Recruitment Exam (TRE 3.0) question papers, the EOU of Bihar Police has claimed. The revelation came after the recent arrest of four from Bengal in connection with the constable recruitment exam paper leak that happened on Oct 1, 2023. "The arrested were identified as Kaushik Kumar Kar and Sanjay Das, both residents of North 24 Parganas, and Suman Biswas from Kolkata. Another accused, Saurabh Bandhopadhyay, is a resident of Lucknow. The exam was cancelled by Central Selection Board of Constables on Oct 2 after the question paper and answers went viral on social media platforms hours before the exam," a EOU official said.

Anand and Tushar Bhatt.

The CBI counsel said interrogating the quartet was crucial to identifying and rounding up many others who allegedly conspired with them, specifically those who may have introduced willing students and their guardians to the perpetrators of the paper leak. The court is scheduled to give its verdict on the plea Saturday.

TN House again passes motion to junk NEET, BJP MLAs walk out

Chennai: Tamil Nadu assembly Friday once again passed a resolution urging Union govt to exempt the state from NEET and to allow it to admit students to medical colleges based on Plus-Two examination marks. The resolution also said Centre should "totally scrap NEET".

BJP walked out in protest while AIADMK MLAs were not present as they had been suspended Wednesday for the rest of the session. CM MK Stalin moved the resolution, which said, "NEET, which spoiled medical education dreams of rural and poor students, made school education unnecessary and took away rights of states to admit its students in state's medical colleges, should be abolished."

Stalin said NEET had made medical education inaccessible to rural and poor students. He said DMK had been repeatedly demanding abolition of NEET since it came into effect in 2017. "The malpractices, cheating and scams connected to the recently declared results of NEET had made students lose faith in the exam," he said.

LoP Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, and RJD chief Tejasswi Yadav had opposed NEET and demanded that it be scrapped, Stalin said.

TVK neta T Velmurugan said NEET affected students psychologically and that he knew as he himself was the father of an affected student. He urged Stalin to gather opposition MPs and disrupt Parliament until NEET was withdrawn.

MMK's M H Jawahirullah said NTA has a RSS link and didn't have the right to conduct NEET. OPS supporter and AIADMK MLA Manoj Pandian said amendments were required to get exemption from NEET and that state govts should file review pleas with evidence NEET was flawed.

BJP MLA Nainar Nagendran opposed remarks against the NTA and walked out. **TNN**

CBI arrests Hazaribag school principal, his deputy in NEET-UG paper leak case

Questions 13 Suspects Nabbed By Bihar Cops In Patna Jail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna/Hazaribag/Chatra/New Delhi: CBI, probing the NEET-UG paper leak case on Friday, arrested three people, including principal Ehsanul Haq and vice-principal Mohammed Imtiaz of Oasis School, in what marks a crucial turn in the investigation into the leak of one of the most competitive exams.

Haq, also the district coordinator of NEET for Hazaribag, had maintained his innocence through the investigation and even pointed his finger towards a private courier company that had transported the question papers to the town in north-east Chotanagpur, and State Bank of India where they were to be kept until the day of the exam.

A regular presence on television channels, Haq had

said he could not open the digital lock on the packet containing the questions at 1.15 pm on May 5, that is 45 minutes before the exam was scheduled to start, and had called up the National Testing Agency control room to seek guidance. The school principal, who was questioned for three days, also said that since the investigation showed that the leaked paper had been made available to students, who paid money to a gang engaged in stealing the papers, the night before, he could not be held responsible for the leak.

His claim was, however, exposed during the probe which, based on CCTV footage, established that booklet no. 6136488 containing the exam paper was taken straight to Oasis School instead of the SBI branch where it was supposed to be deposited for



CBI officials at Oasis School on Friday. The school principal Ehsanul Haq is also the district coordinator of NEET for Hazaribag

safe custody. Second, an examination of Haq's call records showed that he had been in touch with the members of the leak mafia.

The sleuths recorded the statement of bank officials and also collected the CCTV footage besides examining employees of the courier company which transported the box. The footage confirmed that no tampering occurred during transportation. The call which was made by Haq to NTA was also an alibi, sources said.

CBI also interrogated 13 suspects arrested by Patna police in Beur Central Jail in the Bihar capital and sleuths visited Kankarbagh with two accused to explore the potential involvement of Rocky, nephew of alleged mastermind Sanjeev Mukhia, in the case.

Earlier, the CBI had arrested two men named Ashutosh and Manish in the case. Ashutosh had rented the play school building in Patna which was allegedly used as a safe house by the handlers to coach around 20-

25 students with the leaked question papers on the night of May 4. Manish took over the location for a day, bringing the students there, and later the accused burned the question papers and answers. Bihar Police discovered the burned remains during a raid on May 5.

Economic Offences Unit of Bihar Police, which had been investigating the case before it was handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation, corroborated these findings, according to sources.

Rocky, who owns a hotel in Ranchi, is accused of arranging solvers to crack the leaked question paper. He is currently on the run. Sources said CBI searched Rocky's residence in Kankarbagh and collected evidence for further investigation. Rocky is an acquaintance of the arrested suspects, Chintu and Mukesh, who were apprehended in Deoghar on June 22 and later remanded in CBI custody from June 27 to July 4 by a special CBI court in Patna.

10 students of Raj med college under lens, 2 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kota/Jaipur: Students of Jhalawar Government Medical College in Rajasthan have come under the lens of probe agencies in the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak scam, with eight of them interrogated by Delhi Police in May and two detained by Mumbai police on June 13.

College authorities Friday confirmed that Mumbai police, after a day-long interrogation, took the two students to Mumbai, and the duo had still not re-joined college.

Dean Dr Subash Chandra Jain said Mumbai police sought information on and documents of the duo through an email communication on May 11. On June 13, an officer arrived with a letter of authority and inquired

about the two students, one of them a woman and resident of the campus hostel.

"After five-six hours of questioning on the same day, Mumbai police informed the college authorities that they would take the students to Mumbai. The authorities,

had not returned to college till date. He did not divulge whether college authorities had followed up the matter with the cops in Mumbai.

Jhalawar Superintendent of Police Richa Tomar, however, told TOI that the district police were not

All the 10 students were from the 2019-2022 batch, the dean of Jhalawar Government Medical College said. While eight of them were quizzed by Delhi Police in May, two were detained by Mumbai police on June 13

thereafter, reported the matter to local police," Jain said.

There had been no further communication from Mumbai police about the two students, dean Chandra said, adding that the duo could still be under the custody of Mumbai police, as they

aware of any arrest or detention from the medical college last month. "After media enquiries, we sent a team to the college on Friday and were told that a Mumbai police team had visited the institute and taken the two students with them," added Tomar.

Earlier in May, Delhi Police had called eight students of the college, but they were let off after questioning. "On May 8, a Delhi Police officer had approached Jhalawar Medical College with a letter of authority and sought information and documents about the eight students, who live in rental accommodations outside the campus," Jain said.

The dean said the eight students were picked up "from their respective locations, not from the college campus". "These students have now returned to the college and have joined their respective classes. When questioned, they revealed that the police had called them to Delhi for inquiry and set them free later," he added. College authorities did

not reveal if there had been any further communication with Delhi Police regarding the eight students or in connection with the NEET scam.

All the 10 students questioned were from the 2019-2022 batch, the dean informed. He refused to disclose their identities, citing directions from the police and department officials. It's not known whether any of the 10 students have been booked in the case.

According to sources, some students of Jhalawar Government Medical College are suspected to have appeared as dummy candidates in the NEET-UG examination for Rs 15 lakh each. The college authorities remained mum on the charges and the role of the students questioned by the police.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Pooja

General public is hereby informed that this Woman (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Pooja, W/o: Vijay Kumar, R/o: H No. 660, Bans Mohalla, Ghitorni Village, Delhi** has been kidnapped/Missing since **07.06.2024**. In this regard a missing person report case vide **DD No.118A, Dated 08.06.2024** has been registered at **PS-V.K. South, Delhi**.

Her Physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, **Age:** 28 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Salwar Suit.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

SHO

DP/7769/SW/2024

PS-V.K. South, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



VIKAS

General public is hereby informed that this Boy (depicted in the photo) **namely Vikas S/o Dharamramp R/o H. No. MSC-279, Gali No. 5, Mohalla Yogmaya, Multani Dhandra, Paharganj, Delhi** has been missing from H. No. 7985, Gali No. 7, Nabi Karim, Delhi since **11.06.2022**. In this regard a DD No. **41A Dated 11.06.2022** has been lodged at **PS Nabi Karim, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 28 years, **Height:** 5' 7" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Wearing Chocolate Colour T-Shirt and Khaki Colour Pant.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following address:-

SHO

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

PS: Nabi Karim, Delhi

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-23521081

Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641

Mob.: 8750870428

Fax No.: 011-24368639

DP/8214/CD/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Kareena

General public is hereby informed that a girl **namely Kareena, D/o Mithlesh Jha, R/o N-159, Gali No. 6, Sadatpur Extn., Karwal Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since **22.06.2024 at 10:00 AM** from her home. In this regard **DD No. 0037 A, dated 23.06.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station Khajuri Khas, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Kareena, **Age:** 19 Years **6 Months**, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Suit & Salwar and Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

Police Station, Khajuri Khas, Delhi

DP/8267/NE/2024

Ph: 011-22962735, 8750870727

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Manisha

General public is hereby informed that a female **namely Manisha, W/o: Nitish Kumar, R/o: Shubhash Park-2, Gali No. 3, Khoda Colony, Ghaziabad, UP** has been missing since **18.06.2024 at about 02:00 PM** from G.B. Pant Hospital, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 43 A, dated 19.06.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station I.P. Estate, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Manisha, **Age:** 30 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Cream Colour Suit & Salwar and Sandal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. I.P. Estate, New Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

Police Station, I.P. Estate, New Delhi

DP/8011/CD/2024

Ph: 011-23370928, 8750870426

Govt. of Bihar
Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)
Beltron Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna-800 023,
Telephone No. 0612-2281242 Tele Fax No. 0612-2281857
CIN-U31900BR1978SGC001317
Email: alokpratapsuman@bihar.gov.in

Ref. No. 3214/2024
e-Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. for Selection of Agency for "Selection of Consultant for Implementation of CCTV Surveillance System at all District Hospitals /SNCU of Bihar". The details of the tender will be available on the website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> from 27/06/2024. The last date of submission of the tender is 18/07/2024 up to 04:00 PM.

PR-002877 (B & C) 2024-25
नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।
Managing Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)
Name of work and its location: Interlocking of LC no. 42 at Khatauli of Delhi Division Under ADSTE/MUT.
Approx. Cost of the work (₹) ₹44,80,332.12 Bid Security (₹) ₹89,600/-
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055
Date and Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading 27.06.2024 closing date & time 19.07.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1425 Dated: 27.06.2024 1946/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:
1 Name of Work with its location: Miscellaneous works interconnection with reliability improvement of Traction Distribution Assets in the jurisdiction of OHE/MUT, OHE/MDNR, OHE/JDW & TRD/SMQL.
2 Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 47,16,223.13/-
3 Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 94,300/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period: 09.07.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 23.07.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time: 23.07.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
6 Fund Allocation: 07041032
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
E-TENDER No.: 22-TRD-NDL-S-2024-25 Dated: 28.06.2024 1943/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that a female **namely Palak D/o Lt. Imamuddin R/o H.No. 1001, Gali No.21, A-Block, Sonia Vihar, Part-4, Delhi** has been missing since **23.06.2024 at 08:30 PM** from her house. In this regard a **FIR No. 0346A dated 24.06.2024 U/s 363 IPC** has been lodged at PS, Khajuri Khas, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:
Name : Palak, **Father's Name :** Lt. Imamuddin, **Age :** 15 years, **Height :** 5'1", **Face :** Long, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Medium, **Wearing :** Black Color Salwar and Kurti, Kurti Printed with White Flower.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Extn No. : 2101
SHO
P.S., Khajuri Khas, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22962735
8750870727
DP/8297/NE/2024

Government of Maharashtra
Transport Commissioner's Office, 5th Floor, Fountain Telecom Building No.2
Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fountain, Fort, Mumbai 400001
Telephone No. 022-20827103 e-mail ID- dyteinspect.tpt-mh@gov.in
No.TCO/10ADTT/Desk 10/2024/ON 7502 Date 27 JUN 2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Project Name - Publication of Tender No.TCO/D-10/Inspection/ADTT/2024/ ON-7419 for Establishment of 10 Automated Driving Test Tracks in the State of Maharashtra.
Setting up Automated Driving TestTracks in 10 transport offices through the motor vehicle department is under process. The e-tender Notice for selection of service provider for setting up Automated Driving TestTracks for transport offices has been published on Government website "<https://mahatenders.gov.in>" through E-Tender Portal on Dated 27.06.2024 The last date of submission of said tender is 26.07.2024 till 05.00 PM.
Sd/-
Joint Transport Commissioner (Inspection)
Maharashtra State, Mumbai
DGIPR/2024-2025/537

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, MUMBAI.
Procurement Cell, 6th Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, Mumbai - 400 001.
E-mail - jdprocurement.dhs-mh@mah.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE
Ad. No.03 Date : 26-06-2024
Joint Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai invites tender in two envelope system from the eligible supplier for Printing of Cards, Manuals, Forms & Registers etc. in Hospitals & Primary Health Care Centre under Health Institutes under Commissionerate of Health Service, Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item	Type	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission	Tender Opening
1	E-03	Notice for inviting Printing of Cards, Manuals, Forms & Registers etc.	Sale Period	Dt. 08-07-2024 At 02:00 Hrs	Dt.27-06-2024 to Dt.26-07-2024 upto 14.00 PM	Dt. 29.07.2024 from 14.01 Hrs to 17.30 Hrs

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the **website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>**
2. The Jt. Director of Health Services, (P.Cell), Mumbai reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.
Website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Contact: Toll-free Number-18020-419-3436 / 1800-102-3436
Jt. Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell) Mumbai.

MP plans anti-leak law with ₹1cr fine, 10-yr jail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh govt is mulling a tough new law to deter paper leaks, proposing a fine of Rs 1 crore and 10 years' imprisonment. The school education department has prepared the draft and sent it to the law department, sources said, adding that it has already been discussed at the senior secretaries committee.

According to the draft, in case of a paper leak, the examination centre, service provider and anyone found involved in irregularities will be directly held responsible. Apart from the steep fine and

After paper leak, Bihar to hold fresh teachers' test

Bihar Public Service Commission Friday announced the Teacher Recruitment Exam (TRE-3), which was earlier cancelled because of question paper leak, would be held from July 19 to July 22. TRE-3, held on March 15, was cancelled after it was found that the paper was leaked. Around 3.75 lakh aspirants took part in the exam. **TNN**

10-year jail term, the property of the convicts will be attached or confiscated, sources said. The govt hopes to table the bill in

the ensuing assembly session. If it can't, the law will be implemented in form of ordinance, sources said.

Madhya Pradesh has a dark history of examination scams, from Vyapam to alleged irregularities in the 2023 patwari recruitment. The state govt wants to bring about a law to cover all exams — from school boards to competitive tests and recruitment.

The exercise began around three months ago with the initial aim of covering school and board exams. But once the NEET paper leak scandal erupted, authorities quickly decided to expand its ambit to cover every kind of examination.

Failed govt job aspirants in Raj turn dummy candidates

Jaipur: Virma Ram Jaat, 25, a BED graduate has failed a number of times in recruitment exams for govt jobs. But he has been helping numerous others in securing teaching positions by acting as a dummy candidate in tribal areas like Rajasthan's Banswara, reports Nitesh Kumar.

And, Virma isn't the only one. Several unsuccessful candidates have helped hundreds of students in these tribal regions clear exams by appearing on their behalf.

The success rate of these dummy candidates is higher due to the reservation quota for ST or Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) categories, probe revealed.

Rajasthan Special Operations Group & cops from various districts are searching for over 100 such dummy candidates in connection with paper leak cases under probe.

Virma was preparing for teacher recruitment exam in Jodhpur two years ago when he came in contact with some people associated with paper leak gangs. He was lured into appearing as a dummy candidate when he failed to crack the exam. He then started his own gang and arranged dummy candidates for others.

TSP areas are notified tribal areas that include Banswara, Dungarpur, & Pratapgarh and parts of Udaipur; Rajasmand, Pali, Chittorgarh & Sirohi. For district level recruitment, ST candidates from these areas have 45% reservation, SC 5% & remaining 50% for other castes. Only locals are eligible to appear in district level recruitment exams.



JONATHAN VAN NESS OF 'QUEER EYE' SAYS CLAIMS OF 'DIFFICULT BEHAVIOUR' ON SHOW'S SETS ARE 'OVERWHELMINGLY UNTRUE'



EMMA ROBERTS SLAMS SEXISM AROUND NEPO BABY DEBATE: 'WHY IS NO ONE CALLING OUT GEORGE CLOONEY? (HIS AUNT) ROSEMARY WAS AN ICON'

A Fumbling Performance, A Panicking Party

Dems Scramble After Biden's Wobbly Debate Against Trump

US Prez Biden hoped to build fresh momentum for his re-election bid by agreeing to debate nearly two months before he is to be formally nominated. Instead, his halting and disjointed performance on Thursday prompted a wave of panic among Democrats and reopened discussion of whether he should be the nominee at all.

Over the course of 90 minutes, a raspy-voiced Biden struggled to deliver his lines and counter a sharp though deeply dishonest former prez Donald Trump, raising doubts about the incumbent prez's ability to wage a vigorous and competitive campaign four months before the election. Rather than dispel concerns about his age, Biden, 81, made it the central issue.

Democrats who have defended the prez for months against his doubters—including members of his own administration—traded frenzied phone calls and text messages. Practically in despair, some took to social media to express shock, while others privately discussed among themselves whether it was too late to persuade the prez to step aside in favour of a younger candidate. "Biden is about to face a crescendo of calls to step aside," said a veteran Democratic strategist who has staunchly backed Biden publicly. "Parties exist to win. The man on the

Hard to debate a liar: US prez on criticism

Prez Joe Biden brushed off Democrats' complaints about his performance at the debate with Donald Trump and indicated that he had no plans to rethink his candidacy. "I think we did well," he told reporters. Asked about Democrats' concerns about his showing and calls for him to consider dropping out of the race, he said: "No. It's hard to debate a liar." He indicated that his raspy voice stemmed from a minor ailment. "I have a sore throat," he said. His aides said he had been fighting a cold. **NYT**

stage with Trump cannot win." A group of House Democrats said they watched the debate together, and one, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, called it a "disaster". The person said the group was discussing the need for a new nominee. Mark Buell, a prominent donor, said: "Do we have time to put somebody else in there?" Biden's advisers have long dismissed any speculation about him dropping out, rejecting it as unjustified nervousness even as he has trailed Trump in battleground states needed for victory. California governor Gavin Newsom, one of those mentioned as a possible repla-

Kamala: 'Slow start', but Biden will win

Vice-president Kamala Harris defended her boss' shaky debate performance, arguing that Biden should be judged on his record in office rather than the moments on the stage where he faltered. "Joe Biden is extraordinarily strong," she said. Harris conceded that he did not perform expertly at the start of the debate. "It was a slow start, that's obvious to everyone," she said. "... (But) he got into a groove where it counted. I thought it was a strong finish. Our prez showed that he will win the election." **NYT**

WHEN AGE IS NOT JUST A NUMBER

US prez debate featured two candidates Biden (81) & Trump (78) with a combined age of 159. They levied personal attacks as they sparred over economy, immigration & more for 90 min



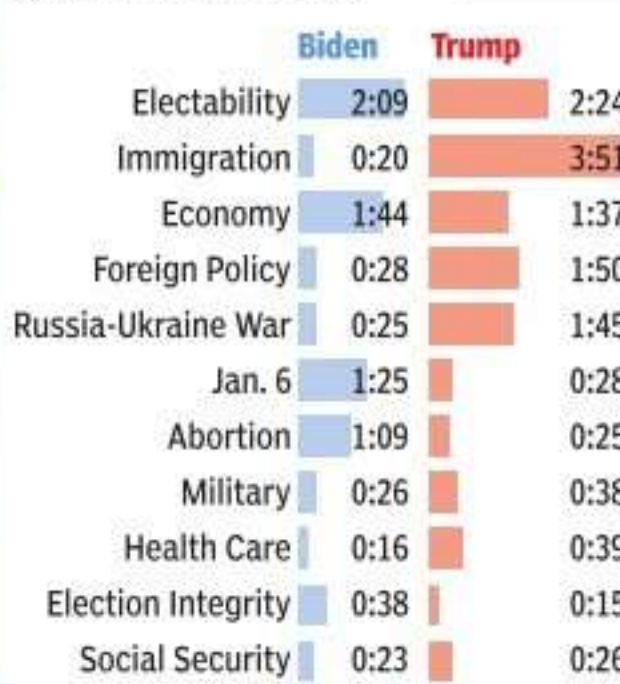
FUMBLING PERFORMANCE
Raspy Biden grasped to recall specifics, laboured to articulate statistics. In one answer, he confused trillionaires with billionaires

SPLIT SCREEN SETBACK
For long intervals Biden stood silent, eyes darting, mouth agape

CAN BIDEN BE REMOVED FROM TICKET?
Under Democratic Party rules, it would be difficult, if not impossible. The prez won overwhelming majority of delegates during state-by-state primary process. Rules mandate delegates remain bound to back him at Dem national convention in Aug

Which issue gave rise to the most attacks

How much time the candidates spent attacking each other on key issues, sorted by combined time spent



WHAT HAPPENS IF BIDEN STEPS DOWN?

Laws vary by state about how a vote for Biden would be counted if he's no longer the nominee, but his votes would likely go to his replacement when the Electoral College meets. Another hurdle: Printed ballots with Biden's name already on them

ANY PRECEDENT TO STEPPING ASIDE?

Prez Lyndon Johnson decided not to seek re-nomination in 1968, as Vietnam War protests mounted. In a surprise Oval Office speech, he said, 'I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party'



POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS? Veep Kamala Harris is the most logical choice, but it wouldn't be automatic.

Other candidates: Governors of California Gavin Newsom | Illinois | J B Pritzker | Michigan - Gretchen Whitmer



Trump's relentless attacks & falsehoods Sept 10: A date for Biden to redeem self

For most of Thursday night's debate, former Prez Trump verbally pummeled Prez Biden, painting his political opponent as an ineffectual leader with a torrent of attacks that were frequently false, lacked context or were vague enough to be misleading.

Trump went directly after Biden's personal character, calling him "weak" and little respected by global leaders who were "laughing" at him. He tried to accuse Biden of corruption, dubbing the president as a "Mancurian candidate" who was "paid by China," a nod to frequent accusations of undue influence for which there is no evidence. He directly blamed Biden for a wave of immigrants "coming in and killing our citizens at a level we've never" seen, a hyperbolic claim that is not backed up by statistics. And in a wild misrepresentation of facts, Trump claimed falsely that Biden "encouraged" Russia to attack Ukraine, even though Biden has consistently tried to rally support for Ukraine.

This guy's three years younger, and a lot less competent

> You (Trump) have the morals of an alley cat
> He's the only president other than Herbert Hoover who's lost more jobs than he had when he began
> The only person on this stage who's a convicted felon is the man I'm looking at
> My son (Beau, who served in Iraq and later died of cancer) was not a loser, was not a sucker. You're (Trump) the sucker. You're the loser

I really don't know what he (Biden) said at end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said either

> He allowed millions of people to come in here from prisons, jails, and mental institutions — to come into our country and destroy our country
> I will have that war settled between Putin and Zelensky as president-elect, before I take office on January 20
> He doesn't want to do it (help Israel). He's become like a Palestinian, but they don't like him because he's a very bad Palestinian, he's a weak one

Trump's remarks during the debate were not different from the way he inveighs against Biden during his rallies. But the attacks were particularly striking given that Biden was standing mere feet away from him. The CNN anchors focused on keeping the peace, they did

not even try to fact-check Trump's assertions. Biden did get in a few licks though. He said Trump had the "morals of an alley cat" and accused him of having sex with a porn star while his wife was pregnant. But by and large, Biden was on the defensive.

Seizing on Biden's halting speech, Trump pounced at one moment when Biden trailed off, saying: "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said, either." But Trump's most forceful attacks surrounded immigration. Trump invoked the idea of "Biden migrant crime," claiming that Biden's lax border policy had allowed terrorists and criminals to cross the border illegally. He accused Biden of killing "so many at our border" by not curbing the surge of migrants, an assertion that he did not back up with statistics.

Trump also went after Biden's profile on the world stage. He argued that Putin was "laughing at" Biden's leadership and at his failure to secure the release of WSJ reporter Evan Gershkovich. Trump also revived his accusations that Biden improperly received payments from a Chinese energy company tied with his son Hunter. There is no proof any portion of those payments went to the president. **NYT**

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: At the US presidential debate, Joe Biden failed to corner Donald Trump, a rival who is a recently convicted felon, and who was winging it with vague generalities and dissembling when asked specific policy questions. Despite calls from some quarters to quit the race, Biden associates said he will be preparing to participate in the second presidential debate on Sept 10. He will have nearly 10 weeks to shape up if he is not shipped out by then.

Even Biden partisans were shocked by the evening's debacle. "I love Joe Biden. I know he's a good man... Tonight was heartbreaking in many ways... There's panic in the Democratic party," Maria Shriver, the former first lady of California and a member of the Kennedy family, wrote on X. Former Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill offered a more blunt take, saying while the debate showed that Trump is "a liar, a flawed character, mean, a jerk, ve-

HOW 'X' RATED THE DEBATE

ok if you don't live in the US, please turn the debate off. This is our private family humiliation, and we'd all prefer you not stare | @ginnyhogan

Dear America, Lebanon has had no President for 2 years. Consider it. Take a break | @FirasMaksad

DEBATE NIGHT IN AMERICA! Sweet Jesus! The networks are packaging this as entertainment, like a boxing match, and selling democracy down the river. It's a shame | @StephenKing

These dudes have been calling each other the worst President in history for 80 straight minutes — and neither one of them got really offended until their golf skills were questioned. Hahaha | @GaryParrishCBS

That's it folks. Cancel the election. Let's settle this on the golf course. Winner takes all. The only way to do it | @stoolpresidente

This debate is elder abuse :(| @HexPositive

kamala walking through the background stretching and doing lunges | @ben_rosen

ry unlikely", Biden "had one thing he had to accomplish and that was reassure America that he was up to the job at his age, and he failed at that tonight".

Party veterans tried to stem the panic, suggesting that voters should look at the larger picture. "It's a choice between someone who cares about you — your rights, your prospects, your future — versus someone who's only in it for himself," former first lady, senator, and prez

AROUND THE WORLD



IRAN VOTES IN SNAP POLLS
Iranians voted Friday in a snap election to replace late Prez Ebrahim Raisi, with the race's sole reformist candidate vowing to seek 'friendly relations' with the West in an effort to emerge supporters in a vote beset by apathy. Voters face a choice between hard-line candidates — parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili — and the little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, a



heart surgeon. Also in contention is cleric Mostafa Pourmohammadi. Polls opened at 8am (local time) in 58,640 stations across the country. Early projections of the results are expected by Saturday morning and official results by Sunday. More than 61 million Iranians over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If that doesn't happen, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later

Oklahoma orders schools to teach Bible, a move akin to that of Louisiana

The highest education official in the US state of Oklahoma Thursday ordered public schools to teach the Bible. "The Bible is a necessary historical document to teach our kids about the history of this country, to have a complete understanding of Western civilisation, to have an understanding of the basis of our legal system" said state superintendent Ryan Walters, an elected Republican official. The announcement comes one week after the Republican governor of Louisiana signed into law a measure requiring that the Ten Commandments be displayed in all public school classrooms. The separation of church and

state is a founding US principle. The Louisiana law is already facing a legal challenge, and the Oklahoma guidance seems destined for the courts as well.

Woman sues ex for claims for refusing her airport ride

The promise of a ride to the airport is not legally binding, a woman in New Zealand has discovered after seeking compensation from her ex-boyfriend because she missed her flight. The woman was so annoyed about failing to catch her plane when her partner reneged on an airport ride that she ended the relationship and took him to a dispute tribunal. Her ex-partner's pledge to give her a lift and look after her pets while she was away was a verbal contract, the woman claimed. According to legal experts, the woman would have had to show a legally binding contract for her claim to succeed.

ESCALATING CONFLICTS

US assault ship in Mediterranean to deter Lebanon and Israel from war

Washington: The amphibious assault ship USS Wasp entered the eastern Mediterranean Sea this week as the US positions warships to try to keep fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon from escalating into a wider war in West Asia.

While the Wasp has the capability to assist in the evacuation of civilians if full-scale war breaks out between Israel and Hezbollah along the Lebanon border, that's not the primary reason it was rotated in, a US official said. "It's about deterrence," the official said. A second US official said the rotation is similar to how the US sent the USS Bataan assault ship into the waters around Israel shortly after Hamas' Oct 7 attack on the country, with the vessel remaining for months in the eastern Mediterranean to help provide options and try to contain the conflict. The Wasp also is sailing with the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York, which can deliver troops either by on-deck helicopters or landing vessels. **AP**

Russia says US drone flights over Black Sea risking a direct clash

Moscow: Russia warned the US on Friday its reconnaissance drone flights over the Black Sea risked leading to a "direct" military clash, issuing the threat days after angrily blaming Washington for a missile strike on Crimea. Ukraine's attack on the Russian-annexed port of Sevastopol on Sunday drew fury from Moscow, which accused Kyiv of using US-supplied ATACMS missiles equipped with cluster munitions.

On Friday, Russia's defence ministry said it had "observed an increased frequency of US strategic unmanned aerial vehicle flights over the waters of the Black Sea" which surrounded Crimea. It said the drones were "carrying out reconnaissance" and providing information for Western-supplied Ukrainian weapons that Kyiv is planning to use to strike Russian targets. Such flights "increase the risk of a direct confrontation" between Nato and Russia, and the army has been instructed to prepare an "operational response", the ministry said. **AFP**

Farage's campaigner uses racial slur for Sunak; PM says he's 'hurt, angry'

Aide Also Called For Using Migrants For 'Target Practice'

London: British PM Rishi Sunak Friday denounced the use of a racist slur against him by a now-suspended member of the anti-immigration Reform UK party led by Nigel Farage. Sunak said he was hurt and "angry" after broadcaster Channel 4 filmed a Reform canvasser using a racist slur to describe him, adding that Farage had "some questions to answer". "My two daughters have to see and hear Reform people who campaign for Nigel Farage calling me an effing p***," said Sunak, first British prime minister of colour.

"It hurts and it makes me angry, and I think he has some questions to answer," he added of the Reform leader. Sunak, who is of Indian descent, said he had deliberately repeated the slur word used "because this is too important not to call out clearly for what it is".

Farage, a hard-right populist who is standing to become an MP after seven previous failed bids, has seen his campaign increasingly embroiled in



Indian-origin Sunak, UK's first PM of colour, said: "My two daughters have to see and hear Reform people who campaign for Nigel Farage calling me an effing p***"

controversy. A string of Reform candidates have been ditched or suspended in recent weeks over allegations of offensive comments. In the latest such scandal, an undercover investigation by Channel 4 filmed at least two of its organisers making racist, homophobic and homophobic comments last week in Clacton-on-Sea, the constituency where Farage is running.

The individuals have now been dismissed, with Farage saying he was "dismayed" by the comments of "a handful of people associated with my

local campaign". "The appalling sentiments expressed by some in these exchanges bear no relation to my own views."

Campaigner Andrew Parker, who is heard using the racist slur about Sunak, also called for new army recruits to carry out "target practice" by shooting migrants illegally to cross the Channel illegally in boats. George Jones, a Reform events organiser, was filmed making homophobic remarks including describing the LGBTQ flags "degenerate".

Labour Party's Keir Starmer, tipped to replace Sunak as PM, said he was "shocked" by the clip and that Farage faces a "test of leadership". Farage was criticised earlier in the campaign for saying Sunak does not "understand our culture", in reaction to the PM leaving early from D-Day commemorations in France. As per anti-racism outfit 'Hope Not Hate', Reform UK has had to withdraw 166 candidates, many of whom have made racist or offensive remarks. **AFP**

France's far-right seen winning 37% of vote: New poll

Paris: France's far-right National Rally (RN) extended its lead in a poll published on the last day of campaigning before Sunday's first round of parliamentary elections, with another survey showing it in sight of a slim majority.

Marine Le Pen's anti-migrant, euro-sceptic party has led polling since Prez Macron called a surprise snap election this month. A new OpinionWay poll published by Les Echos newspaper Friday showed the RN could reach as much as 37% of the popular vote, up two percentage points on its score a week ago. Macron's centrist bloc Together party was seen reaching 20%, down by two points from the last publication. The New Popular Front leftwing alliance stood at an unchanged 28% of the vote.

BFM TV, in a different poll compiled by Elabe, calculated that the RN and allies could end up with 260-295 seats in the new parliament — potentially crossing the 289-seat bar for an absolute majority. **REUTERS**

US SC allows ban on homeless people sleeping outdoors

The US Supreme Court decided on Friday that cities can enforce bans on homeless people sleeping outdoors, even in West Coast areas where shelter space is lacking.

The ruling comes after homelessness in the US grew a dramatic 12% last year to its highest reported level, as soaring rents and a decline in Covid assistance combined to put housing out of reach for more people.

In a 6-3 decision along ideological lines, the SC reversed a



HOMELESSNESS A CRIME?


ruling by a San Francisco-based appeals court that found outdoor sleeping bans amount to "cruel and unusual punishment" under the 8th Amend-

ment. "Homelessness is complex. Its causes are many. So may be the public policy responses are required to address it," Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the majority. A bipartisan group of leaders had argued the ruling against the bans made it harder to manage outdoor encampments encroaching on sidewalks and other public spaces in nine Western states. That includes California — home to an estimated 171,000 homeless people, or nearly one-third of the country's homeless population.

Homeless advocates, on the other hand, said allowing cities to punish people who need a place to sleep would criminalise homelessness. "Sleep is a biological necessity, not a crime," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in dissent motion. The case came from the Oregon town of Grants Pass, which appealed the ruling striking down local ordinances that fined people \$295 for sleeping outside after tents began crowding public parks. **AP**

Top court makes it harder to charge Jan 6 riot accused with obstruction, charge Trump faces

The US Supreme Court on Friday made it harder to charge Capitol riot defendants with obstruction, a charge that also has been brought against former prez Donald Trump. The justices ruled 6-3 that the charge of obstructing an official proceeding must include proof that defendants tried to tamper with or destroy documents. Only some of the people who violently attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, fall into that category. It's unclear how the court's decision will affect the case against Trump, although special counsel Jack Smith has said the charges faced by the former prez would not be affected. The SC returned the case of former police officer Joseph Fischer to a lower court to determine if Fischer can be charged with obstruction. Fischer has been indicted for his role in disrupting Congress' certification of Democrat Joe Biden's 2020 election victory over Trump. Fischer is among about 350 people who have been charged with obstruction. **AP**



A thought for today
People say accidents are due to human error; which is like saying falls are due to gravity
TREVOR KLETZ

In For A Stricture

India's building lots of infra. Who's checking quality?

A tragedy like the collapse of foyer roof at Delhi airport's domestic terminal that killed at least one, will likely happen again – in some airport, or bridge, hospital or commercial building. It sounds doomy, but it must be said. Hours before the Delhi accident, visuals from Jabalpur airport showed a car crushed by a roof section that caved in.

Missing link | It's a laundry list of accidents from what most certainly is shoddy construction and maintenance, for decades a missing link in India's infra boom. And it shows up everywhere – in the collapse of Majerhat bridge and Vivekananda flyover in Kolkata, Morbi bridge in Gujarat, seepage in Mumbai's undersea tunnel, flooding in Delhi's new underpasses. We don't even count deaths from potholes – whether Mumbai or Delhi, or drownings in overflowing drains.

Sector in pain | Delhi's GMR-run airport is the jewel in India's airports' crown. Its three terminals make it the world's second busiest by seating capacity. GOI's civil aviation push had a capex of over ₹98k cr (2019-24) for development, upgradation and modernisation. India has 149 airports, including 75 added over the last decade. But the sector is struggling, in every manner. Passengers shell out big money even, purportedly, for airport upkeep. Where is it all going?

Red flags | India's rapid infra boom has been handicapped by scant oversight of contractors, irregular inspections, even shortage of qualified inspectors. Inconsistent standards and poor quality of materials worsen impacts of outdated inspection techniques, limited budgets and staff shortage. There's corruption and conflict of interest. Heavy rain and extreme weather is the new normal; it is no excuse. The fast pace of development has outpaced inspection and maintenance capabilities. That's a man-made disaster. GOI will review all airports. Is that nearly enough? The answer's obvious.

Kvaratskhelianism

What a football hero from a tiny country tells us

Football is nothing without its fairytale moments. Georgia's spectacular victory over Portugal to qualify for the last 16 stage of the ongoing Euro 2024 adds to the collection. A country of 3.7mn, this was Georgia's first major tournament. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, who scored the opening goal against Cristiano Ronaldo's side, was a random 12-year-old in the crowd when the Portuguese star came for the inauguration of a football academy in Georgia in 2013. Without a doubt, this is Georgia's greatest sporting moment.

Past to present | Sure, Georgia did have a strong footballing culture in Soviet times, and Dinamo Tbilisi was a powerhouse in the Soviet championship's. Fun fact, Stalin was Georgian. But post-independence, Georgian football saw a steep decline. It's only in recent years with help from Uefa that Georgian football revived, developing infra and establishing training centres. This led to emergence of players like Kvaratskhelia, who now plays for Italian club Napoli.

Indian football's moment? | When will Indian football achieve similar results? Note that in 2015 Georgia's Fifa ranking was 154, India's was 156. Today, Georgia is ranked 74 while India is at 124. It's not that a nation of 1.4bn people doesn't have footballing talent. But as the mess with the sacking of men's team head coach Igor Stimac shows, bureaucratic inefficiencies persist in the system. We have the players, but we don't have the administrative system for a Georgian fairytale yet.

Here's A Vital Thing That AI Can't Do

Good work needs connecting with others, a human speciality

What counts as work today? What about the invisible labour that underlies tasks that can be seen and measured? There is a connective tissue between ourselves and our societies, which we fail to recognise. *The Last Human Job: The Work of Connecting in a Disconnected World* by Allison J Pugh is about the importance of this 'connective labour'.

Seeing the other and reflecting that understanding back is how humans help each other be human. This work is ubiquitous but there is no name for it. It is only partially understood. It is not recognised or reimbursed. As data analytics and automation push systems to be efficient and reproducible, we are in the middle of a full-blown depersonalisation crisis.

When someone feels seen and understood, that powerful interaction reverberates. Neuroscientists call this "perceptual crossing". It is about mirroring a relatively true image back to the other person. We might recognise the value of this in teaching and nursing, and not so much in police or the law. But, in fact, it pervades all successful interactions and organisations.

Automation and depersonalisation – a kind of machine logic – has set in across fields. Those who push these solutions say that it is to 'scale up' operations, or expand access, be more efficient, or take over tasks so that humans can be freed to focus on what matters.

But the primacy we give to data tends to edge out connective work, which is really an artisanal practice. It's something we do with our bodies and expressions, our 'spider sense', that creates rapport and enables collaboration. We make helpful mistakes, our interactions are spontaneous and unpredictable. Machines can customise, they can offer a thin veneer of sociality, but cannot reproduce this capacity for connection.

In workplaces, excessive standardisation not only hinders relationships, it makes humans feel like automatons. Centring checklists, protocols and info can affect the quality of work, as the process becomes its own point, distracting from the actual work. In the West, after electronic records supplanted personal attention, doctors reported higher rates of burnout.

In the gig economy, connective labour becomes a consumer service, counted, shaped and surveilled through technology. Ratings and reviews do not replicate the quality of relationship that such work provided. Working in these environments is often alienating, with little solidarity to be found.

Connective labour is shot through with questions of social inequality. Today there's a growing sector of lifestyle work: investment advisers, coaches and therapists for affluent people. With the emergence of 'concierge medicine', only wealthy people can afford some hand-holding and clinical intuition.

People-to-people interactions are not always for the best, obviously. Shame and judgment can rear up. For those from marginalised or stigmatised backgrounds, it might be easier to rely on an impersonal system than a person who might condescend to them.

Social intimacy is not just a lubricant for transactions. It makes the world go round. Leaders who centre relationships motivate others, but they must also allow others to connect. This is seen in education, where research suggests a good principal can affect 25% of a school's outcomes by affecting teachers' emotions and consequently, a school culture of care, which boosts morale and learning.

Grocery shops, playgrounds, classrooms, clinics are all venues of interaction and belonging. They make a community out of individuals. Our social health depends on them.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



JOE, BYE THEN?

Given how the first presidential debate went, should Democrats replace Biden by the next debate in Sep? But no matter which Democrat runs against Trump, it's going to be a close contest

Michael Wasiura

Millions of Americans have now seen a former president debate a sitting president, and few would care to witness such a thing ever again. For more than two hours, one of the old men on stage brazenly answered questions the moderators were not asking him, and the other old man on stage uncomfortably stumbled over several of his more substantial responses.

Watching the debate in Michigan – a key swing state in the Nov election – two historical analogies came to mind.

- First, compare Biden's debate performance against Trump to the late, great Muhammad Ali's final professional fight. In 1980, a retired Ali wanted one last shot at a heavyweight title. Up-and-coming Larry Holmes demolished the past-his-prime former champ in a manner that made viewers fear for the older man's health.
- But there was also the 1960 presidential debate. Americans who had listened to the presidential debate on radio thought Nixon had won, and those who had watched it on TV thought Kennedy had won.

On substance vs style point, let's note this: almost immediately after the debate ended, both Democratic leaning CNN and Republican supporting Fox News were admitting – or, in Fox's case, celebrating – the fact that Biden not only looked awful, but sounded awful.

He often stuttered mid-sentence, mumbled constantly, and his answers contained far more factual info than many ordinary voters can comprehend. Biden lost, no matter how many outright lies Trump told in his confident, hypnotising style of delivery.

This meant that there was no debate: Biden really did look like an aging Ali, and sending him back out onto the big stage opposite Trump on Sep 10, when the next contest is scheduled, actually sounds cruel.

But unlike in the case of the disastrous final fight of The Greatest, Biden's end may not come quite so suddenly. He might even end up outlasting the brute who just spent two hours rhetorically punching him in the face.

Right around an hour after the debate itself mercifully ended, CNN checked in with a focus group

of Michigan voters. After five minutes of discussion about what it was they had just seen, this was the tally in the room CNN was polling:

- For Trump: 7
- For Biden: 6
- Undecided: 1

There are going to be a whole lot of people arguing today that Thursday night's events have determined the fate of America for decades to come. And yes, the political equivalent of Ali vs Holmes really was incredibly ugly.

But for tens of millions of voters, Biden's stuttering and vacant stares still appear less ugly than Trump's attempt to overthrow the 2020 election, his failure to prevent the spread of Covid, his used-car-salesman demagoguery, and that time he was exposed bragging on video about committing sexual assault.

True, Trump's poll numbers will go up by a few points over the next few days. Quite possibly, Biden really will end up watching a different Democratic candidate take on Trump in the next presidential debate in Sep. It's also entirely possible that both Biden and Kamala will get replaced on the Democratic ticket. But that won't end anything either.

Around an hour after the debate, when CNN published the results of a larger poll, it showed that only 5% of likely voters who watched the event had changed their minds about the candidates – a figure far from sufficient to signal the end of the Biden campaign.

Yes, many Michigan Democrats will 100% support the Democratic candidate in Nov so long as Trump is the opponent on the other side. It does not matter if a three-day-old slice of pineapple pizza calcifying in the refrigerator ends up being the country's most promising competitor against Trump, they would vote for the pizza. Even if it ends up being Kamala, they would vote for Kamala.

Trump won Michigan in 2016, and lost it in 2020. As goes Michigan this Nov, so goes America's future, and there is literally nothing Biden or Trump could do to substantially change the number of Democrats or Republicans who are willing to support one candidate over the other.

This means that, no matter how insanely eventful the four months end up being, the results of this election are going to be painfully close. Biden voters have made up their mind. Trump voters have made up their mind. The only question that remains is, which side will convince a slightly higher percentage of its electorate to take the trouble of casting a ballot this fall?

Asking for a prediction? You're as likely to get the correct answer by flipping a coin. All that's certain is, if you really believe that things cannot possibly get any uglier than Thursday night's debate, then you are in for four more months of shocking disappointment. There will be many more unappealing plot twists before we reach the unpredictable end of this deadly serious reality show.

The writer contributes to Newsweek and other American news outlets



How To Tackle Our Cities' Monsoon Mess

- Restructure stormwater drains
- Remove encroachments from pavements, streets
- Make all agencies answerable to the urban local body
- Train more town planners

KK Pandey

Monsoon arrived in Delhi yesterday – so did waterlogged streets, traffic chaos and massive disruption of regular life. This happens every year, and in every major Indian city. Why?

Because our approach to dealing with the problem is not preventive. Every year, we deal with it after the city has been brought to a grinding halt. Issues like regular repair, replacement of drainage/ sewerage system, keeping public spaces (roads, streets, footpaths) free of encroachments are put on the back burner while there is still time for planning and management.

India's urban population of 461mn (2019) will go up by 416mn by 2047. This means, without timely and concerted action by all stakeholders, the problem will get worse in coming years.

cannot deal with water issues, sewage or drains by working in silos, which is what urban bodies like NDMC and MCD, or even satellite cities like Gurugram and Noida represent.

Town planners have a vital role to play in how urban systems are run. But we don't have even one per lakh population. Compare that with 38 in UK and 23 in Australia. Even in our larger cities, the number is well below the norm for modern global cities.

If planning is bad, implementation is worse. It is quite common for our cities to not have stormwater drains in place. Most Indian cities do not even have an

is being processed for the last four years.

But just as responsible are citizens, cutting across income groups. Is it not common to see educated people in high- and middle-income colonies illegally occupying footpaths outside their houses? Or parking their vehicles on roads, leaving little space for traffic movement? As for low-income areas, they are totally choked with little space for circulation.

What's the way forward? | One, how plans are implemented needs a complete relook. MPD-2041, for example, makes a provision for blue-green development and use of dhalaos for segregation of waste. That must be implemented rigorously. Two, we must prepare proper drainage plans, or revisit them in case they have proven inadequate. Take waterlogging at Delhi's ITO. The only way it can be resolved is by detailed restructuring of the sewage network that aligns it with water level of Yamuna.

Three, water and sanitation plans must be prepared as per 15th finance commission's devolution package for 44 urban agglomerations covering 1,115 urban local bodies. Four, safety audit of roads/streets and footpaths must be done regularly. Such an audit should identify barriers/encroachments for follow-up action to free up space for movement of water, goods and people.

Five, authorities need to engage with communities for removal of encroachments from footpaths and roads. At the same time, spaces occupied by govt departments for their use should be cleared. Six, agencies handling water and sanitation should be made accountable to ULBs. Most important, ULBs should have overarching authority over all agencies responsible for urban upkeep. Finally, there must be regular maintenance of drainage and sewage network to minimise the chances of an unforeseen event throwing urban life out of gear.

The writer is professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration. Views are personal

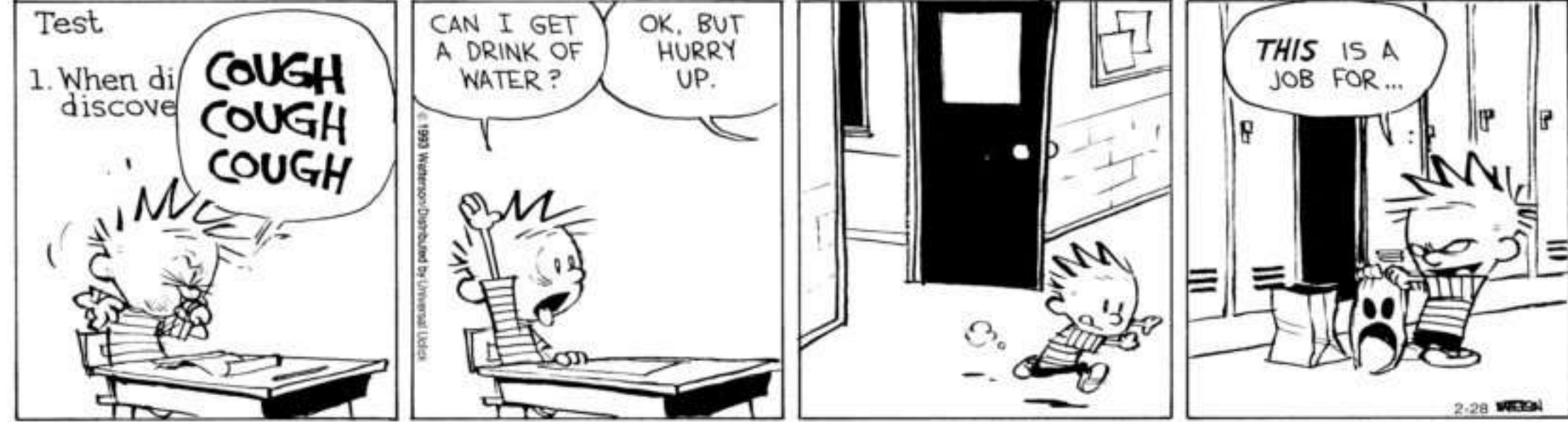


What's behind the mess? | Waterlogging in our cities is caused by expansion of planned and unplanned urban areas without regard for space for circulation; drying up and destruction of lakes, tanks and water bodies due to dumping of construction and demolition waste; and inclusion of areas occupied by lakes and other water bodies in habitation zones. For instance, half of the 519 water bodies in Gurugram have disappeared over 40 years. The story is quite similar for Bengaluru.

Who is responsible? | Water management is the responsibility of three stakeholders: planning agencies, urban local bodies and exclusive agencies for water and sewage. The three rarely work in tandem, with issues of jurisdiction marring their efforts. While solid wastes fall in the domain of urban local bodies, water and sewage quite often don't.

This bits-and-pieces planning does not allow for holistic management of huge urban spaces like NCR. You

Calvin & Hobbes



Finding Joy In Little Things Is A Game-Changer

Jaya Row

Life can be tough. It throws challenges at us, but even in the darkest of times, there is always hope. Joy isn't reserved for rare, monumental occasions. It's constantly present. You just have to recognise it.

Today, let's enjoy the magic and joy in our everyday lives. Finding joy in the little things can be a game-changer. A smile from a stranger, a beautiful sunrise, the laughter of children, and scores of other little things bring joy to life.

However, we are often too busy chasing after external objects to enjoy the many things that nature provides. The essential prerequisite to finding joy is a calm mind. The mind is often preoccupied with worry and anxiety

about the future. You miss the beauty and grandeur that the present moment offers.

The mind is full of desires for various things. It goes out into the world to fulfil them. It is constantly in a state of agitation and is in no mood to enjoy anything. You may have a delicious meal before you, but if the mind is worried about a bad day at work or anxious about the following day, you cannot even taste the food. The same applies to any enjoyment. You focus on earning money to acquire a fancy home, luxurious car, or exotic vacation. Are you in the right frame of mind to enjoy it?

The Bhagwad Gita says that people cook but eat sin. You work hard and put



THE SPEAKING TREE

in long hours to earn wealth. In the end, you only get stress and mental agitation. Who enjoys the world? The person who eats the remnants of sacrifice. You gain prosperity and happiness when you work in a spirit of service and sacrifice for a higher cause. Your mind is calm, and you can enjoy even the simplest things – the chirping of a bird, a gorgeous sunset, a simple meal or the gentle breeze.

The mind has the habit of focusing on one little thing you do not have. Thus, by your own volition, you miss the millions of things you have been blessed with – for free and in abundance. Even when you get what you seek, you are not happy. Your mind shifts to something else you lack. Thus,

you are always unhappy, agitated, and miserable.

When your happiness is pegged on a future achievement, you do not enjoy what you have. When you get what you want, your mind immediately shifts to something else. This goes on endlessly. Swami Rama Tirtha said, "If you are not happy as you are, where you are, you will never be happy."

It is a myth to believe that you need to possess a thing to enjoy it. Learn the art of enjoying a ride in the neighbour's new car. Celebrate a colleague's promotion. You are then free of the stress to earn the money to afford all this. You no longer suffer from the disease of more.

A calm mind thinks of higher, more fulfilling avenues. As you get anchored in the higher, you become free from lower desires. You evolve spiritually.

Sacredspace

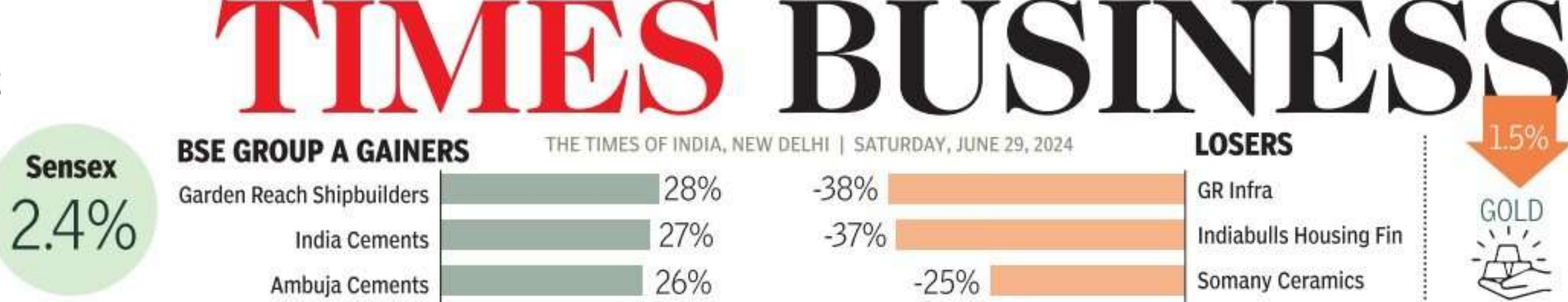


Before you start some work, always ask yourself three questions – Why am I doing it, What the results might be and Will I be successful. Only when you think deeply and find satisfactory answers to these questions, go ahead.

Kautilya

Sensex, Nifty Record Best Month Since Dec 2023

The sensex & Nifty gained in four of five sessions this week, rising by over 6% in June — the best month since Dec 2023. The rally has been driven by large-caps and private banks



Startup bets dip to \$3.1bn in June, Zepto among top

Chennai: PE-VC investments in June cumulatively stood at \$3.1 billion, though the total number of startup deals as well as amount fell marginally. According to Venture Intelligence, 71 PE-VC deals saw investments of \$3.1 billion in June compared to 78 deals fetching \$3.2 billion investments in May 2024. TPG Capital's \$900-million-investment in digital services firm Altimetrik and \$600-million-investment in Zepto were the month's two major investments. TNN



Cap for basic demat a/cs raised to ₹10L

New Delhi: Aiming to boost participation of small investors in the securities market, Sebi on Friday increased the threshold for the basic service demat account to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 2 lakh. The new guidelines will come into force from Sept 1. The move will encourage small investors to trade in the stock market and ensure their financial inclusion. AGENCIES

Govt gross liabilities up 3.4% at ₹172L cr

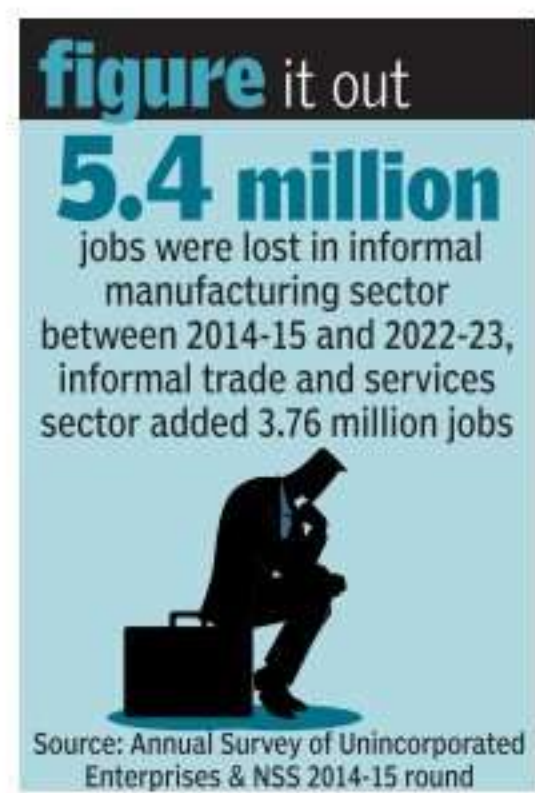
New Delhi: Total gross liabilities of govt increased to Rs 171.8 lakh crore at the end of March 2024 from Rs 166.1 lakh crore at Dec-end, a 3.4% increase quarter-on-quarter, the finance ministry has said. AGENCIES

Forex kitty jumps by \$816mn to \$654bn

Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped by \$816 million to \$653.7 billion for the week ended June 21, RBI said on Friday. In the week before, overall reserves had dropped by \$2.9 billion to \$652.9 billion. AGENCIES

RBI fines HSBC ₹30L for non-compliance

Mumbai: RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 29.6 lakh on HSBC for non-compliance with specific directives related to credit, debit and rupee-denominated co-branded prepaid card operations. TNN



AI-obsessed GenZs get GCC reality check

Veena.Mani@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Fresh engineering graduates joining GCCs (global capability centres of MNCs) are hugely aspirational. They are reluctant to do grunt work. And they are particularly eager to work on the most fashionable technologies — AI, in today's context. A recent LinkedIn study found that GenZ is more AI-ready than others as they focus on doing AI-specific courses.

But this is becoming a pain point for GCCs, all of whom are trying to find ways to temper expectations and help freshers understand the end-to-end needs of the engineering and software assembly lines. "My biggest struggle with this generation is that they talk only about AI and ML. Just out of college, they do not un-

'Real Work' A Pain Point For Freshers

GenZ Aspirations	How Cos Groom Fresh Hires
> Highly focused on AI tech	> Trainees are put on projects for hands-on learning
> Reluctant to engage in grunt work	> Apprenticeship with senior professionals
Global Capability Centres' Challenges	
> Need to temper expectations of new hires	
> Help them understand end-to-end engineering and software processes	

derstand that in a sector like banking, AI cannot be deployed just like that, that banks are bound by lots of regulations," Srikanth Gopalakrishnan, CIO for people and head of the India technology centre, Deutsche Bank Group, said. To deal with this, the bank gets trainees to do at least two projects over one year, after which they can choose a permanent project. As a result of this exercise, Gopalakrish-

nan said that many of them look for projects based on the exposure they get and not just the technology. In this process, freshers are also made to understand that work such as resolving tickets will be a huge part of their daily job in the initial years. "When they come out of college, they have a mindset that work is always about writing code from scratch," he added. Vaideyanathan Seshan,

SVP and India tech hub head for Canadian athletic apparel company Lululemon, said freshers come with the idea that their work will consist only of coding. Part of the initial training therefore involves giving fresh graduates a deep dive into the retail sector. During a three-month bootcamp, freshers are not put on any project, but are taught things like Java, cloud services, and how and what sort of data they should go after. "We help them differentiate between a science experiment in college and real-life business," Seshan says. They are also asked to shadow a senior employee so that processes are understood, and the trainee gets an idea of the sort of products used by the firm. Seshan says this helps them get over the obsession with buzz words.

A similar approach is used by professional services firm Alvarez & Marsal, where a senior supervisor oversees the work for a few months. "The most important thing for us is to make sure that freshers understand what GCCs do and how they can build a successful long-term career with us," says Manish Goyal, MD & GCC lead for India. This, he says, is not really possible during the internship. "We have found that the best way is to put them on a project with a seasoned professional. The fresher works with senior managers in an apprenticeship model. This way, freshers get deep exposure and learning," he says. Subashini Sriram, HR head at healthcare technology GCC Carelon Global Solutions, calls this generation of graduates "aspirational".

Global debut: Govt bonds enter JP Morgan's index

\$25Bn Inflows To Lower Borrowing Costs, Support Rupee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

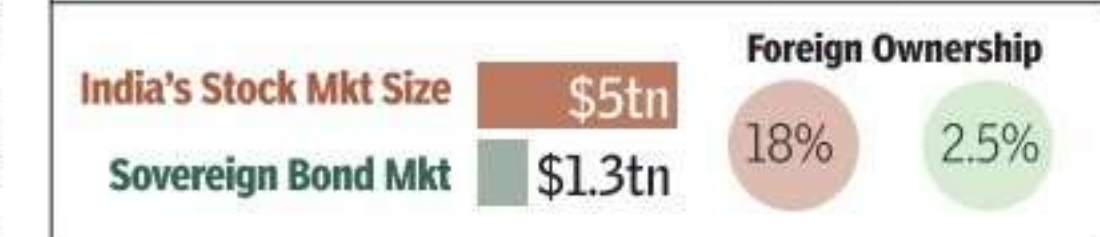
Mumbai: Indian govt bonds made their entry into the JP Morgan emerging market bond index on Friday, a development that can reduce the cost of long-term borrowings for businesses, add stability to the rupee and improve the country's balance of payments position.

The inclusion, announced last year, will lead to index-tracking funds purchasing Indian bonds to align their portfolios with the index, creating immediate demand. It also enhances the visibility of Indian bonds and their credibility, attracting investment from a wider range of foreign investors. It is estimated that \$20-25 billion of foreign investment will flow into India in FY25, given that Indian bonds will have a 10% weightage in the index.

Index chasing funds are estimated to have pumped in up to \$500 million into the bond markets on Friday. The capital flows led to the strengthening of the rupee, which gained from 83.45 to 83.38 against the dollar. Despite a rise

'1994 MOMENT FOR SOVEREIGN BONDS'

JP Morgan's Bond Index | Like the sensex is a stock index, JP Morgan's bond indices are benchmarks for govt securities markets. They comprise govt bonds issued by various countries



in the value of the dollar and crude oil in international markets, the rupee gained against the dollar because of the fund inflows.

"Since Oct 2023, non-residents have poured almost \$108bn into Indian govt bonds, and an additional \$5 billion through dollar-settled, rupee-denominated supranational bonds. With \$2.3-billion in-

flow in June alone, there's strong confidence that by the end of March 2025, index trackers will have a 10% weight allocated to India," Parul Mittal Sinha, who heads financial markets in India at Standard Chartered Bank.

India's local debt stock of \$1.3-trillion govt bonds is the second largest in emerging markets, with bonds inclu-

ded in the index exceeding \$400 billion, second only to China. India has the largest govt bond market in the region because of a historically large fiscal deficit for which banks were used as captive investors. Now with foreign investors picking up a large chunk of the bonds, banks will have more funds to lend leading to better rates.

"India's relatively high yields among other index constituents can potentially convince active managers to shift to an overweight stance for these papers, along with the dedicated passive names. As it stands, positive real yields, low rupee vols, a supportive macro backdrop, strong defences against market volatility (record high reserves stock) and ongoing fiscal consolidation are key factors that make IGBs (Indian govt bonds) attractive for investors. In the near-term, we don't expect these inflows to stoke material swings in the rupee or liquidity, courtesy the central bank's active presence to minimise volatility," DBS Bank senior economist Radhika Rao said in a note.

Airtel & Vi follow Jio, hike tariffs by 10-27%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after Reliance Jio's announcement, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea joined the market leader and announced tariff hikes by over 20% each as they sought to improve bottom-lines hit by intense competition.

While Bharti Airtel raised tariffs by 10-21% across plans, Vodafone effected an increase of 13-27%. Ratings agency ICRA said tariff hikes could yield additional operating profits of around Rs 20,000 crore for the industry once they are fully absorbed. With improved financial metrics, the industry will have the headroom to undertake deleveraging as well as fund capex for the technology upgrade, and network expansion, it said.



Jio's price rise may boost its monthly average revenue per user (Arpu) by about 17% over the next year, Morgan Stanley estimated. The Mukesh Ambani outfit, which pushed tariffs in India to record low after it launched a free service on an extended trial run to add subscribers, reported Arpu of Rs 182 during Jan-March quarter.

Airtel, which had an ARPU of Rs 209 at the end of the last quarter, has argued that it should be earning around Rs 300 from each of its users. "We believe that this level of Arpu will enable the substantial investments required in network technology and spectrum and offer a modest return on capital," Airtel said.

Car discounts are back after 4 years of waitlists

Dealers Drive Offers Amid Inventory Build-Up | Get ₹35K-60K Discount On Popular Models

Nandini.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Now may be a good time to buy that car you've had your eyes on.

After nearly four years of long waiting periods and negligible add-on benefits, it's raining discounts in the auto industry. According to Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) sources, current discounts range from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 on a hatchback like the (old) Swift to Rs 50,000 plus (including cash discount, corporate loyalty and exchange programmes) on the Honda City.

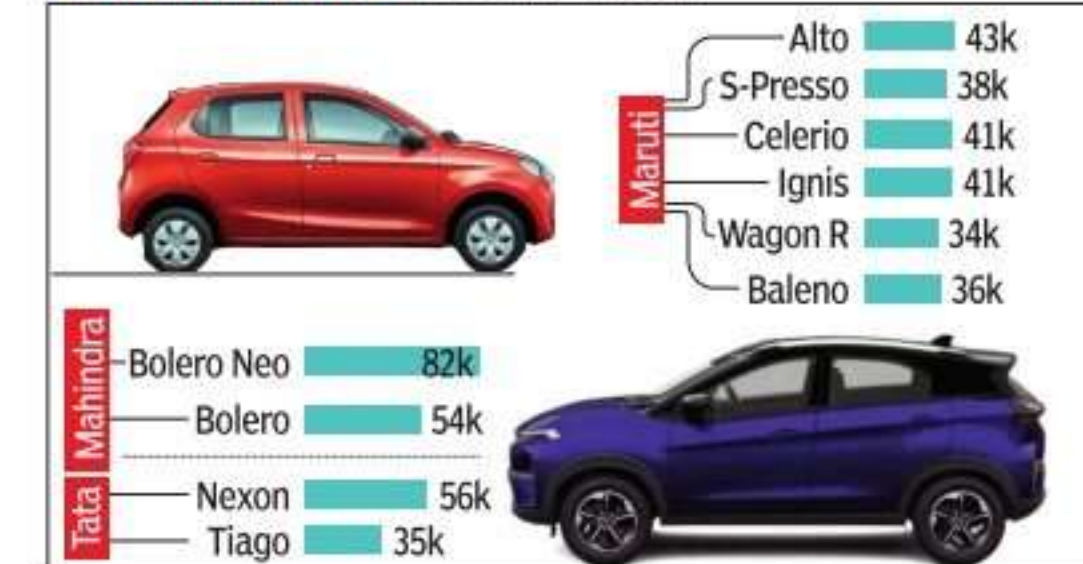
Additional data from FADA shows that some of the higher offers are available on hatchbacks and sedans, with the Maruti Suzuki Alto K10 fetching up to Rs 42,000 (maximum on manual petrol variant) in discounts. Benefits on the Maruti Suzuki WagonR fall between Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000, and in the range of Rs 18,000 to Rs 35,000 on the Hyundai Grand i10 Nios. On the sedan front, the Hyundai Aura comes with Rs 23,000 to Rs 40,000 in benefits — the highest on CNG — while the Honda Amaze fetches over Rs 40,000 (including exchange offers and corporate discounts).

Even high priced EVs and SUVs are fetching dis-

counts, with the Hyundai Alcazar getting Rs 45,000 to Rs 65,000 off, the Mahindra XUV400 EV getting upto Rs 1.5 lakh in benefits and the Honda City eHEV getting Rs 65,000.

unts as a percentage of the retail price, smaller cars are at the top of the heap. According to JATO Dynamics, Alto, Boloro Neo, S-Presso, Celerio and Ignis have the highest discount-to-price per-

FROM ALTO TO NEXON



Dealers state a key reason to be the growing inventory at their end. Manish Raj Singhania, FADA president, said, "June and July are laggard months, so naturally discounts are high... but also because inventory levels are at 55-60 days and on the increase for the past three months. Some makes and models are still on the waitlist like the Mahindra Thar. Others like Maruti Suzuki's new Swift and Eriga don't have any discounts at all. But generally, discounts on hatchbacks and sedans are steep."

Auto industry experts said that in terms of disc-

centile. Ravi Bhatia, president of JATO Dynamics, said, "The data for the top 10 models with the highest percentage discounts for June 2024 shows that discounts have increased in response to inventory build-up in anticipation of the festival period. Car prices had significantly increased in the past, which has adversely impacted demand growth even though SUV sales are holding up."

Dealers say that production ramp-up by some of the top-selling car companies means there has been more wholesale billing than retail in the last three months.

Middle Class Spending Strained, Demand Flat

Jewellers, fashion retailers pin hopes on festive sales

Asmita.Dey@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: With discretionary spending still subdued, retailers are pinning hopes on festivities and weddings in the second half of the year to give a leg up to demand. Prediction of a good monsoon — which often translates into availability of cash for people employed with the farming sector or adjacent industries — is also expected to help consumption.

To be sure, some green shoots of consumption were visible towards the end of the March quarter, as indicated by companies, but a full recovery in demand is awaited. The slowdown in spending is more pronounced in lower (includes lower middle class) income households, impacting the mass segment, while premium continues to fare well. The mass segment, weighed down by economic pressures, is displaying "cautious spending behaviours" and is recovering at a slower pace, Joy Alukkas, chairman and managing director of Joyalukkas Group told TOI. "The biggest requirement in the market is for the bottom of the pyramid to come in and spend," said Kumar Rajagopal, CEO at Retailers Association of India (RAI). Demand has remained flat in the current quarter and most retailers are worried because they had planned for a much bigger growth, he added.

The industry, analysts said, will also be closely watching for consumption-favourable announcements in the upcoming Budget. Within middle-income households,

those earning between Rs 5-8 lakh annually seem to be more strained financially, industry executives indicated.

"FY25... things may improve but it is good if we plan that the uptick is gradual. Maybe we are also looking at a good monsoon, good industrial output, agricultural output... so, these are all good things which should help us to boost demand in the later part of the

cited financial constraints to be the key reason for a lesser likelihood of spending on consumer durables.

"The big risk is that the mass segment does not revive as quickly as expected in the near term and we have continued pressure on volume growth, while the premium segment also remains sluggish with consumers feeling that their needs have already

No Stress In Premium Segment

> A full recovery in demand is awaited even as some green shoots of consumption were visible towards the end of the March quarter	announcements in the Budget
> Spending slowdown is more pronounced in lower income houses , while premium continues to fare well	> Raymond saw an uptick in consumer spending in Q4, but which fell in Q1 on account of fewer wedding dates
> According to analysts , the industry will be watching for consumption-favourable	> At Titan , while the entry segment for studded jewellery recovered well in Q4, growth in gold jewellery purchases within the sub-₹50,000 price band was impacted by rising gold prices

year," V S Ganesh, managing director at Page Industries (exclusive licensee of the Jockey brand in India), said in the company's Q4 earnings call.

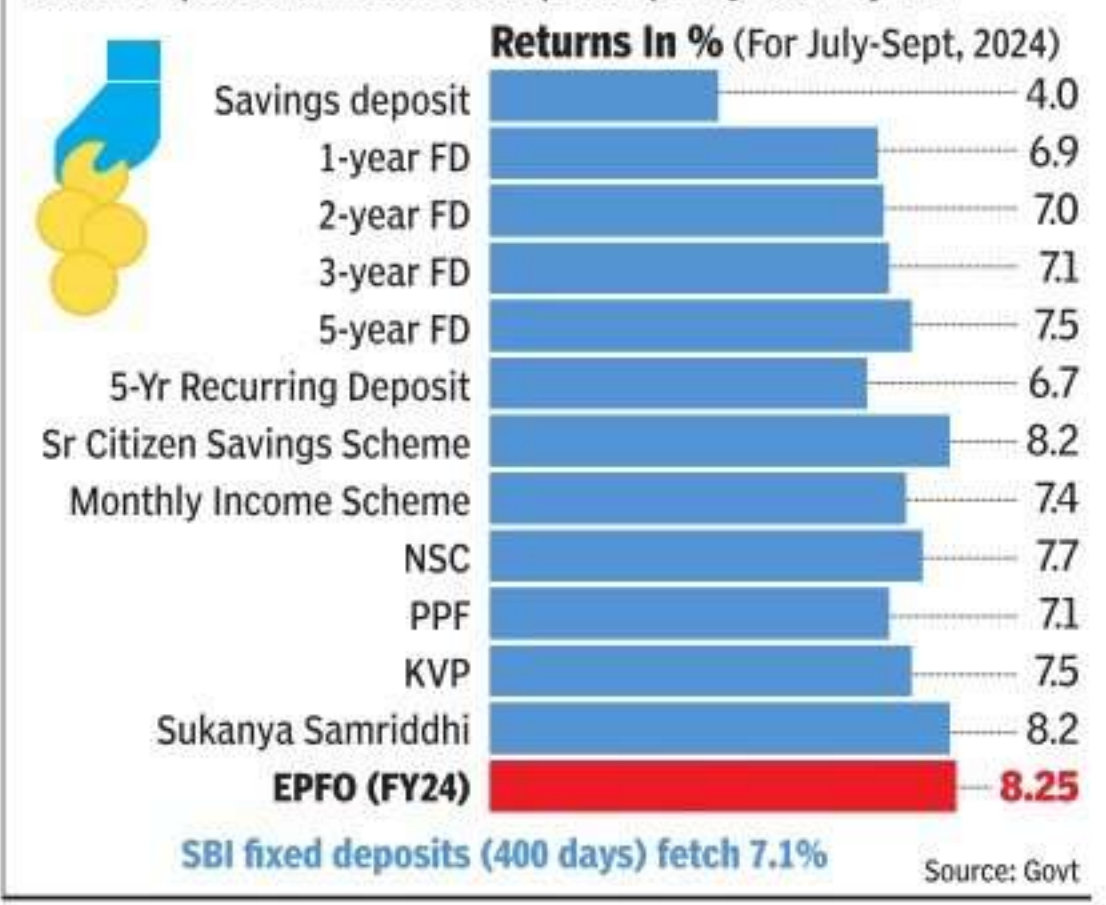
A recent study by Deloitte India showed that about 32% of the 660 respondents surveyed intended to reduce their spending on apparel and footwear in the next 12 months. Accessories like watches and jewellery saw the lowest percentage of respondents intending to increase their purchase frequency. While adequate wardrobes, financial constraints and minimalist lifestyle choices all dictate the cohort's spending preferences, 30% of respondents

been met by past purchases," Anand Ramanathan, partner and consumer products & retail sector leader at Deloitte India, said about the near-term challenges to consumption.

Paritosh Tiwari, head of retail at Raymond Lifestyle Business, said that the company saw an uptick in consumer spending in Q4, but which dwindled significantly in Q1 largely on account of fewer wedding dates. "The heatwave and national elections restricted consumer movement, adding to the low customer walk-ins and pushing retailers to initiate an early EOSS (end of season sale) and mid-season sales," Tiwari added.

STATUS QUO FOR SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES

The govt has left interest rates on all schemes unchanged for another quarter amid a status quo on policy rates by RBI



UK plant strike: Tata Steel plans legal action

Mumbai: Tata Steel plans to challenge the validity of its UK unit's trade union's call for an indefinite strike from July 8 over its move to close certain parts of the operations on the Port Talbot site. The company wants to close two blast furnaces in Port Talbot and switch to lower carbon electric arc furnaces. The closure will lead to axing of 2,800 jobs and the switch to electric arc furnaces — a proposal backed by 500 million pounds of govt money — will help Tata Steel to turn around its loss-making UK operations. TNN

SLOW-BURNING KNOCKOUTS BEGIN

CLASH OF THE UNSCATHED

Germany & Denmark, Unbeaten So Far, Are Ready To Bite The Bullet

Dortmund: Euro 2024 hosts Germany come into Saturday's last 16 clash with Denmark in Dortmund hoping to have learned from Sunday's 1-1 draw with Switzerland, their final group stage match.

This is the only game in the round of 16 that features two unbeaten teams. Germany finished top of Group A with wins over Scotland and Hungary and a draw with Switzerland. Denmark drew all of their games against Slovenia, England and Serbia.

Germany's defence received a much-needed lift on Friday morning as centre back Antonio Rudiger took part in the team's final training session ahead of their last-16 tie. Rudiger had been a doubt after sustaining a thigh injury in his side's final group game against Switzerland, but he is expected to start against the Danes. With centre back partner Jonathan Tah suspended after picking up his second yellow card against the Swiss, Rudiger is likely to be joined in defence by Nico Schlotterbeck, who replaced Tah on the hour mark after he was booked.

After almost a decade of struggles at major tournaments, Germany were riding high after dominant wins over Scotland and Hungary to start the Euros.

Germany however came crashing back down to earth against Switzerland and were on course for defeat, before Niclas Füllkrug's stoppage time header snatched a draw — and with it, first place in the group. Germany boast a shinier trophy cabinet than their northern neighbours but were famously beaten by the Danes in the Euro 1992 final. Schlotterbeck said the Germans knew "actually everything" about the Danes. Since making his debut aged 29 in 2022, Füllkrug has 13 goals — with the Dortmund striker normally coming off the bench. Füllkrug said he was not concerned about his role as supersub. AGENCIES

"I think the stadium is something very special because it's the biggest in Germany. We have triggered a little euphoria in Germany and are now trying to spread it. And if we play a good game, then all the fans will be happy and can cheer us on."
—Nico Schlotterbeck, Germany defender who plays his club soccer in Dortmund



ANTONIO RUDIGER



NICLAS FÜLLKRUG

GERMANY

8 Goals
(2.67 avg. per match)

344.43km
Distance covered
(114.34 avg. per match)

DENMARK

2 Goals
(0.67 avg. per match)

336.47km
Distance covered
(111.67 avg. per match)

GERMANY VS DENMARK

BVB Stadion Dortmund

HEAD TO HEAD (28 games)

GER WON 15 | DRAWS 5 | DEN WON 8

FORM GUIDE

GERMANY

D W W W D

DENMARK

D D D W W

(Most recent first)

Denmark will be forced to sweat on the fitness of midfielder Christian Eriksen, who did not take the pitch in the Danes' pre-match training session. A spokesperson from the Danish FA (DBU) said Eriksen had taken part in a gym workout instead.



—Kasper Hjulmand | Denmark coach

SWITZERLAND VS ITALY

9.30 pm Live on Sony Six and Sony ESPN

GERMANY VS DENMARK

12.30 am Live on Sony Six and Sony ESPN

SPOT ON OR SPOT OF BOTHER

Shootouts set to take centre stage as psychology and new tactics come into play

"THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE YOUR TEAM FOR PENALTIES, TO TRAIN THEM FOR PENALTIES, TO HELP YOUR PLAYERS AND TEAM COPE WITH THE PRESSURE OF PENALTIES. YOU CAN DO THIS AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS A TEAM, AS A MANAGER."

—Geir Jordet, PROFESSOR AT THE NORWEGIAN SCHOOL OF SPORT SCIENCES AND AUTHOR OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, 'PRESSURE: LESSONS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PENALTY SHOOTOUT'

"TAKING PENALTIES IN TRAINING IS USELESS. THE PENALTY IS A UNIQUE SKILL OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL."
—Johan Cruyff
SAID IN 2000

SLICE OF HISTORY

There have been 22 shootouts at the Euros, including four in 1996 and 2020. Of the 232 shots taken in the shootouts, 178 were successful — a 76.7% success rate. That fits the data models which typically say the expected success of a penalty is 0.76 (that is, 76 out of 100 penalties would typically be scored).



Here's a quiz question: What do the 2022 World Cup final, the 2021 African Cup of Nations final, the 2020 European Championship final and the 2016 Copa America final have in common?
Answer: They were all settled by a penalty shootout.

Like it or not, the shootout — that tense battle of wills over 12 yards (11 meters) — has increasingly become a huge part of soccer, an unavoidable feature of the knockout stage in the biggest competitions. Added to the laws of the game in 1970, penalty shootouts have marred careers (Roberto Baggio has never gotten over his miss in the 1994 World Cup final), spawned pizza adverts (Gareth Southgate starred in one after his decisive failure from the spot at Euro 1996) and, in Lionel Messi's case at the most recent World Cup, earned a win that definitively secures a player a place in the pantheon of soccer greats.

GO FIRST OR SECOND?

The latest major study of penalties, covering men's competitions in European soccer over the last 11 years, showed the winning percentage of the team shooting first in penalty kicks was 48.83. Jordet said the advantage has "progressively and dramatically shrunk" compared to older research, some of which said there was around a 60% chance of the team going first winning.

It's why those who delve into the psychology and science of soccer are perplexed why this tiebreaker system has been — and continues to be — overlooked by many teams, especially in these data-driven times.

The theory that penalty shootouts are a "lottery" is well worn and oft-repeated. Johan Cruyff, the late Dutch maestro,

gave short shrift to the idea that teams can prepare for spot kicks. Cruyff subscribed to the philosophy that a player can never simulate the pressure of a penalty shootout — that initial wait in the center circle, that long walk to the penalty spot, those few seconds face-to-face with the goalkeeper — on the training field.

Just this year, France coach Didier Deschamps railed against an attempt by the French Football Federation to come up with an initiative to improve the team's performance in shootouts. France lost in them in the last 16 at Euro 2020 and in the 2022 World Cup final against Argentina. "I'm convinced — and my past as a player gives me this information — that it's impossible," Deschamps said, "to recreate a situation, on a psychological level, between training and a match."

Jordet acknowledged that, but said it's "absurd" to not try to simulate these pressure situations in training. AP

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEST

Defending Champions Italy Face Switzerland In First Sink-Or-Swim Match, Their 62nd Contest

Berlin: Champions Italy take on Switzerland in the Euro 2024 last 16 on Saturday, their 62nd match, after making it through the group phase by the skin of their teeth. Switzerland have not beaten Italy for 31 years and have only eight wins from their previous 61 engagements.

The Azzurri needed a 98th minute equaliser from relative unknown Mattia Zaccagni against Croatia to secure second spot in Group B, five points behind tournament standard-setters Spain. Coach Luciano Spalletti said his team deserved to progress but undermined those words by criticising players for a timid performance in their final group game.

"Thus far everything they've done has been getting better, from my perspective," he said.

However to the outside world his new-look Italy seem unconvincing and a significant downgrade on the side that triumphed at Euro 2020 — where they beat Switzerland 3-0 in the group phase.

Lazio forward Zaccagni, 29, insisted his team could take a step forward in the knockout

rounds. "Now we're just thinking about preparing for a very important match against Switzerland," he said on Thursday.

Murat Yakin's Switzerland boast several Serie A players in their squad, including Inter Milan goalkeeper Yann Sommer and Bologna trio Dan Ndoye, Remo Freuler and Michel Aebischer. Italians and Swiss have long had close ties, sharing a border and Italian is one of the official languages of Switzerland, but that will all be forgotten in Berlin. "Regarding the round of 16, we know how to win, but we also know how to lose it," Freuler told UEFA.

Switzerland proved at Euro 2020 they can put the cat among the pigeons, knocking out Kylian Mbappe's France on penalties in the last 16 before Spain returned the favour in the quarterfinals.

That victory will give them confidence to try and equal their best ever finish in the tournament by reaching the last eight.

The winners will face England or Slovakia in the quarterfinals. AGENCIES



DAN NDOYE
With a top speed of 35.6 kph (22.1 mph) the Swiss newcomer is the third-fastest player at Euro 2024, quicker than France's Kylian Mbappe. He is seventh in goal attempts, level with Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne and three short of Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

"It's difficult to explain what it means to wear this shirt, come here and know that 60 million Italians are watching at home. It means even more when you're wearing the captain's armband."
—Gianluigi Donnarumma
ITALY GOALKEEPER AND CAPTAIN

6 Italy have always scored in their previous six matches at the Olympics. Italy have fond memories of playing at Berlin's Olympiastadion after beating France on penalties in the 2006 World Cup final, their last game in the stadium, where they also defeated Austria 2-1 in the final of the 1936 Olympic Games.

ITALY
3 Goals
(1 avg. per match)
357.74km
Distance covered
(118.67 avg. per match)

SWITZERLAND
5 Goals
(1.67 avg. per match)
340.95km
Distance covered
(113 avg. per match)

23 So far, Euro 2024 has been a difficult experience for the Azzurri, conceding after just 23 seconds in its opening 2-1 win over Albania, then being thoroughly outclassed by Spain, before a last-second strike from Zaccagni salvaged their fortunes

"The Italians hate to lose. They are the reigning champions, they never give up... Italy are the favourites — there's nothing more to say."
—Michel Aebischer
SWITZERLAND MIDFIELDER

SWITZERLAND VS ITALY

Olympiastadion Berlin

HEAD TO HEAD (61 games)

SWITZERLAND WON 8

DRAWS 24 | ITALY WON 29

FORM GUIDE

SWITZERLAND

D D W D W

ITALY

D L W W D

(most recent first)

CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE FACE OF THE GAME

RIGHT CALLS
VAR decisions seemed to be a smoother process here than seen, for instance, in the Premier League last season. UEFA is deploying semi-automated offside technology, along with AI and Adidas' connected ball technology to speed up the review process and improve accuracy. Ten cameras are installed in each of the host stadiums, which UEFA says track 29 different points of the body on every player. Combined with the official tournament ball, which has a sensor to help detect every touch, and AI, the decision-making process is supposed to be quicker and more conclusive than before.

Goal-line technology has ended debate over marginal calls in terms of whether the ball has crossed the line. There are seven cameras in each goal.

THE BALL
Official match ball of the Euros, the Adidas Fussballliebe, is assisting with offside calls and also seems to be a hit with players. It's made from recycled polyester and other materials including carbon fibers, sugar cane and wood pulp, and players have spoken of the speed and distance it generates. Arda Guler's curling effort from around 20 meters is just one example.

From smart-enabled match balls and artificial intelligence to cryogenic recovery chambers, football is being transformed by the cutting-edge technology available to players, coaches and officials. That much has been evident at Euro 2024, where advancements in areas such as equipment and sports science have been deployed on and off the field, designed to improve the game, the fan experience and player welfare.



DOWNTIME
For Spain's 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal, his spare time can be taken up with catching up with homework on his pad. He has successfully passed his school exams. Germany's base in Herzogenaurach has a cinema screen by an outdoor pool. Germany's Kai Havertz was seen carrying a popular video game console as he stepped off the team bus. AP

WEARABLES
England's players have been spotted wearing smart rings. "The idea is it helps monitor your sleep, which is the biggest factor in terms of recovery," England manager Gareth Southgate said. Southgate is also wearing a smart watch which retails at \$6,500, has its own tracking capabilities and also provides

score alerts during the tournament.

TREATMENT
Teams have a suite of recovery devices. Spain's base camp in Donaueschingen has a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, a cryogenic chamber and a phototherapy bed to help speed muscular recovery. A hyperbaric oxygen chamber is used to breathe in 100% pure oxygen. Cryogenic treatment involves the use of cold temperatures, while phototherapy uses light. "This works wonders after the intense games. Anything that can give us an edge we are going to take advantage of," Spain forward Nico Williams said on Instagram. England captain Harry Kane has made use of air compression boots, which massage players' legs and increase circulation. AP

Weah, other US players suffer racist abuse after loss

Atlanta: Tim Weah and other members of the U.S. national team were targeted with racist abuse on social media after the Americans were beaten 2-1 by Panama in the Copa America on Thursday night.

The US Soccer Federation issued a statement saying it was "deeply disturbed with the racist comments made online." Weah, who is Black, was sent off with a red card in the 18th minute after punching a Panama player. The short-handed Americans nearly held on for a tie, but Panama scored a late goal (Jose

Fajardo the 83rd minute) that put the US hopes of advancing past the first round in serious jeopardy.

The USSF said several of its players were the targets of racist comments. "There is absolutely no place in the game for such hateful and discriminatory behaviour," the statement said. "These actions are not only unacceptable but also contrary to the values of respect and inclusivity that we uphold as an organization."

The governing body also reported the racist abuse to CONMEBOL,



18 Tim Weah (No. 21) punched defender Roderick Miller on the head in the 18th minute. The foul was initially ruled a yellow card. But after review, referee Ivan Barton upgraded the yellow to a red

the South American organizers of the tournament. CONMEBOL issued a statement saying it deplores "attitudes that hide behind social platform accounts." Weah issued a public apology on social media.

"No matter what, I will always fight for my team and my country!" he said. "I sincerely apologize to everyone. I am so sad and angry at myself for putting my brothers through what they went through tonight."

After Weah's dismissal, Balogun delighted the crowd with a splendid strike from 17 yards to give the hosts the lead in the 22nd minute. However, the joy was short-lived as Blackman equalised from the edge of the box four minutes later. AGENCIES

URUGUAY ROUT BOLIVIA AS NUNEZ SCORES IN 7TH STRAIGHT GAME

East Rutherford: Darwin Nunez and his Uruguayan teammates romped through Bolivia's defence as if it were a training game.

Nunez scored in his seventh straight international match, a 5-0 rout on Thursday night that moved Uruguay to the verge of a Copa America quarterfinal.

"There are still several important steps to take in order to be convinced that Uruguay

can reach the level we imagine with the individual talent it has," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said. Facundo Pellistri put the Uruguayans ahead in the eighth minute and Nunez doubled the lead in the 21st with his 10th goal in his last seven games for Uruguay and 13th in 25 matches overall.

Maximiliano Araujo scored his second goal of the tournament in the 77th, and Federico Valverde (81st) and Rodrigo Bentancur (89th) added goals in Uruguay's first five-goal game since beating Panama 5-0 in a June 2022 friendly.



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ARE THE STARS PERFECTLY ALIGNED THIS TIME?

Captain Rohit Knows What It's Like To Be A T20 World Cup Winner, Back In 2007. The Rest, Including Virat Kohli, Don't. With The Team Expected To Stick To The Template Which Has Got Them This Far, One Final Hurdle Now Remains Against The Formidable South Africans. India Will Hope Things Fall Into Place At The Kensington Oval Today...

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN
Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Bridgetown (Barbados): 'Chokers'. It's a tag that's bound to hurt. With cricket fans, exuberance spills over to anger every time their team loses a knockout game. There's a tendency to forget that a team that comes so close so often must be very good. South Africa have lived with this tag for a very long time and Rohit Sharma's India

would surely hate such a tag with all their heart. Since the 2013 Champions Trophy, success in ICC events has kept eluding India even as they have come agonizingly close time and time again. Many Indian fans had decided that they wouldn't watch cricket anymore after Nov 19, 2023, but such is the lure of the sport that it's impossible to stay away from it for long. The Indian team gives you enough reasons to come back to it, dream again, and hope that better days are around the corner. Kensington Oval on Satur-

day definitely promises to be one such day. Rohit and Co. came into this World Cup with a steely determination and a concrete plan. They didn't overdo it through the United States leg and the Super-8s, but simply kept at it. Virat Kohli hasn't scored runs. Shivam Dube hasn't quite set the stage on fire. Even the ever-reliable Ravindra Jadeja isn't at his usual best. But the team management is absolutely fixated about a template when it comes to West Indies conditions and it has worked like

magic so far. "In the game against Bangladesh, most of us got 20s and 30s. Only one guy (Hardik Pandya) got a half-century. Yet we reached 196. That's the perfect performance for me," Rohit had said, and that's exactly what he wants his team to do against South Africa as well. He knows the pitches in West Indies have enough in them in a day game where his spinners Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Jadeja can keep any batting lineup to below 160. And then of course, there is Jasprit Bumrah. Never in the nine years that he has been playing international cricket has Bumrah looked so unplayable. With 15 off four Bumrah overs becoming par — add to that a couple of wickets — India are virtually turning every match into 18-over contest. Opposition batters are almost obligated to attack the other bowlers to make up for it, and the left-arm spin trio is just



DREAM RUN: Indian players celebrate an England wicket on Thursday

too good for that.

Despite taking everything into consideration, there is a slight twist to this South Africa tale in the final. Forget the eight wins they have notched up so far. Just like India, South Africa, too, are a bat-first team. Even though they blew apart Afghanistan bowling first in the semis, the strength of the Proteas lies in going berserk at the top, courtesy IPL superstars like Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and a few others.

Almost all the teams have been wary of taking first strike against India but this South African bunch will surely bat if they win the toss. The last time that happened was in the game against United States at the Nassau County ground and a chase of 110 didn't look straight-forward for a while. It's almost a given though that India, too, will like to bat first and take South Africa out of the contest. The Proteas pace-attack has a bit of venom to it and it is important that Kohli gets a few runs in this

Reserve day for final
Friday was bright and sunny in Bridgetown but there is a likelihood of thunderstorms on Saturday. In case of a washout, the final will be played on the 'reserve day' Sunday.

game. "We understand his class. Form is never a problem when you've played for 15 years. Probably he is saving for the final," said Rohit, showing confidence in a long-time colleague.

FACE-OFF

IND VS SA

TV TIME: 8 PM

STAR SPORTS HOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

IND	SA
14	11

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IND	W	W	W	W	A
SA	W	W	W	W	W

VENUE: BARBADOS

ODDS

IND	SA
5/10	6/4

7

Number of matches India have been unbeaten in this T20 WC. SA are leading that stat with eight straight wins.

0

No team has managed to win the T20 World Cup while remaining unbeaten in their campaign.

-Rajesh Kumar

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On board BW8001 with Team India, from Guyana to Barbados

Fun & Laughter All Around As Rohit And His Boys Adjust To The Delayed And Cramped Flight

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Bridgetown (Barbados): To see what a 'family' looks like, you had to be on the Caribbean Airlines flight BW8001 on Thursday night. As one walked into the commercial carrier-turned-charter a few hours after India's 'marathon' semis against England, there were a few familiar faces.

After crossing the business class where Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Shivam Dube and a few devastated England players were the prominent faces, one came to the economy section. Seated right at the beginning here were Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour.

And as one tried to figure one's seat out, Kuldeep Yadav, who had just taken 3-19 a few hours ago, says, "Kahin pe bhi baith jaiyen sir, koi problem nahin."

And there you are, lodged right in the centre of a group which has given India a lot of joy.

The flight that was scheduled to take off at 6.45 pm had already been delayed by more than two hours. And now the delay started getting longer as the entire ICC crew and a big chunk of the broadcasting team started rushing in, trying to catch the last flight from Georgetown to Bridgetown, the venue of the final.

India's cricket stars aren't used to this. Especially when they are on a magnificent run and are set to play the most important match of the year. But the beauty of this team is that it isn't complaining about the challenges that are being thrown at them.

In 36 hours, they will be up against the only other unbeaten team in the World Cup — South Africa. But for



Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav share a light moment in the flight

now, cricket seemed a topic far removed from their world. The Indian team seemed like a party out on a picnic with family and friends.

While Suryakumar Yadav and Ravinda Jadeja were settling down with their families, in came the familiar face of Rishabh Pant, trying to fix the overhead luggage. "Captain saab kahan hain bhai," Surya asked, and you looked back to find the smiling face of Rohit Sharma, seated at the

back of the economy section.

As the wait got longer, it was fielding coach T Dilip who appeared with a bag of sweet puffed rice. "Come Dilip sir, give me my share," Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal and Surya demanded.

Everyone was getting thirsty too and when Jadeja asked for water for his daughter, the crew said they had run out of water bottles. "You will have to wait for a bit, we are waiting for more bottles," one of the crew members said.

It was almost dinner time. Food wasn't supposed to be served on the flight, and the kajus, mithas and the dubbas started coming out. While Surya tucked into his neatly arranged dubba of home-cooked food prepared by his personal travelling chef, who was sitting right behind him, Jadeja helped himself to some nuts, even offering some to his co-passenger, who he had just met.

Virat had enough of sitting all alone in business class and he too

joined in, pulling Kuldeep and Chahal's leg as Dravid settled into a conversation with Dinesh Karthik.

Amidst all these, you could overhear Surya's wife Devisha — a 'didi' to Kuldeep and Rinku — discussing "how to go about your lives."

Dinner was done, the flight finally took off. Jadeja got busy playing with his daughter, Surya switched on Bollywood thriller 'New York' on his iPad, and as one tried catching a nap, boom came the familiar voice of Rohit. "Chairman saab so rahen hain kya?" Rohit walked in laughing, pushing chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar out of his nap.

Finally around 11 pm, the flight landed in Barbados. Three hours had passed in a jiffy, it was time to say goodbye. "Jeet ke ana bhai," somebody asked Rohit as he carried his tired body towards the exit. The captain nodded and smiled, and you felt these boys-next-door deserve to become world champions.



Kohli saving his best for the final: Skipper Rohit

Georgetown: India captain Rohit Sharma suggested fellow star batsman Virat Kohli's run-drought could well end in the T20 World Cup final against South Africa after his opening partner fell cheaply once again on Thursday.

Kohli's run of low scores at the tournament continued when he was dismissed for just nine in a semifinal win against defending champions England in Guyana. He hit left-arm seamer Reece Topley for a six over long-on, but two balls later as he tried for an encore, the left-arm pacer knocked over the leg stump.

Former captain Kohli, 35, has now scored just 75 runs in seven innings this tournament at an average of 10.71.

But Rohit was convinced it would not be long before Kohli, one of the outstanding batsmen of his generation, was back to

his best. "Virat is a quality player," he said. "Any player can go through that. We understand his class. When you have played for 15 years, form is never a problem. He's probably saving it for the final."

India will now face South Africa in Saturday's final in Barbados, with the match at the Kensington Oval a clash of the tournament's two unbeaten teams.

"We've been very calm," said Rohit, also the skipper when India suffered an agonising loss on home soil to Australia in last year's 50-over World Cup final.

"We understand the occasion of the final. It's important we stay composed, because that helps you make good decisions. We have been very steady, calm, and that has been the key for us. We'll try our best. All I can hope is to put in another good show come the final." AFP



WICKET WAS OFFERING HELP, HENCE I KEPT IT SIMPLE: AXAR

Georgetown (Guyana): His exploits in the powerplay set up India's massive win over England and left-arm spinner Axar Patel said keeping things simple was the key.

Coming in to bowl in the fourth over, Axar (3/23) removed England skipper Jos Buttler off his very first delivery. "Obviously in powerplay, it is difficult but when you know that you are getting help from the wicket, without thinking much, without doing anything extraordinary, I thought that the more I keep it simple, the easier it would be," Axar said during the post-match presser. PTI

BUTTLER ADMITS TACTICAL MISTAKE OF NOT BOWLING MOEEN

Georgetown (Guyana): Admitting that they were completely outplayed by India in the T20 World Cup semifinal, England skipper Jos Buttler said in hindsight it was a tactical mistake on his part to not bowl Moeen Ali on a turning pitch here.

"Yeah, disappointing. I think we were outplayed by India. They fully deserved the victory," Buttler said in the post-match interaction.

"They had an above-par score. I was hoping to restrict them to 145-150. It was always going to be a tough chase from there," Buttler explained as their batters tried to spuddle around especially against the Indian spinners. PTI

Ahead Of His Final Day As India Coach, Dravid Says Teams Know How To Move On From Losses

'NO BAGGAGE OF THE PAST'

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Bridgetown (Barbados): It's not easy being either India or South Africa on the eve of a big final. While South Africa have nothing to show in their ICC trophy cabinet but for a ICC Knockout Trophy in 1998 that most have forgotten, India's recent woes at the crunch are well documented. But Rahul Dravid, who played against the great South African side of the 1990s and was a part of Indian teams that lost big finals both as captain and coach, feels there will be no pressure of the past bothering the sides.

"I don't think teams carry the baggage of the past and know to move on from things. As we moved on from our defeat in Ahmedabad (against Australia in 2023), I am sure they have moved on from history as well. As players we understand that the other team that reaches the final is there for a reason and it has as much right to win as we have. As for Saturday, we will play our best cricket and hope the result falls on our side," Dravid said just after India had notched up a brilliant semifinal win against England.

As much as Dravid tries to brush it off, the discussions around India's loss in the World Test Championship final and the ODI World Cup final keep cropping up. Asked whether India will manage to cross the line this time, Dravid smiled. "I hope we do. It's good that we have been consistent. Last year we have been No. 1 in all three formats and showed a lot of consistency. If we play well and the rub of the green stays with us, we should be there."

There's also an element of men-

"In terms of preparation, there will be no practice ahead of the final. It is about ensuring that physically, mentally and tactically we stay fresh and ready. Being in the right frame of mind is equally important as anything else."

—On preparing for the T20 World Cup final vs South Africa

tal preparation and dealing with the physical fatigue of match-flight-game schedule. If there are any areas to work on, there's no time, at least at the nets, because Friday was all about recovery.

"In terms of preparation, there will be no practice ahead of the final. It is about ensuring that physically, mentally and tactically we stay fresh and ready. Being in the right frame of mind is equally important as anything else," Dravid said. India probably have a slight advantage going into the final because they have played a game in Barbados (against Afghanistan in the Super 8s). More importantly, they had two gruelling practice sessions which allowed them to understand what they should expect from the pitch.

"It's good that we played in Barbados before but that doesn't necessarily mean that the pitch will be the same. What we have done really well as a group is adapting and recognizing what to do. We played very differently in St. Lucia to the way we played in Guyana, where we figured out anything more than 150 should be good. Be prepared and do what needs to be done," Dravid said, keeping it matter of fact.



"I just want to play good cricket and yeah, doing it for someone is totally against who I am as a person and what I believe in. So, I don't want to talk about it and discuss it."

—On the #DoltForDravid campaign

"I don't want to jinx it but I think there's a big one coming up from Virat. I'm just loving his attitude and that he's committing himself on the field — I think he deserves it. I love the intent."

—On Virat Kohli

"Whatever I say will fall short. The way he has worked with the team, his strategy, his maturity, the team's response to him, and the time he spends in strategy, planning, discussion with all of us. I cannot speak more highly about him as a cricketer and also as a person."

—On Rohit Sharma

RAHUL DRAVID AS HEAD COACH						
Format	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Drawn/NR	Success %
Tests	24	14	7	0	3	58.33
ODIs	53	36	14	0	3	72.00
T20Is	70	51	16	2#	1	75.36
Total	147	101	37	2	7	68.70

India have won both the tied matches in the super overs.

RAHUL DRAVID AS INDIA'S COACH IN ICC EVENTS					
Format	Matches	Won	Lost	Winning %	
Tests	1	0	1	0	
ODIs	11	10	1	90.90	
T20Is	16	14	2	87.50	
Total	28	24	4	85.71	

Rajesh Kumar

3 Number of ICC finals India have contested under Rahul Dravid. They made the summit clash of the World Test Championship vs Australia at the Oval in June 2023. They reached the final of the ODI World Cup in November 2023 at Ahmedabad and they have now made the title clash of the T20 World Cup. India also reached the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022, but lost to England.

GALLERY

Bronny James, LeBron's teen son, picked by Lakers

Bronny James, the 19-year-old son of Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James, was selected 55th overall by the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round of the NBA Draft. LeBron James, the 39-year-old Lakers playmaker who is a four-time NBA champion, has said he would like to play alongside his son next season -- in what would be the first father-son combination in NBA history.

Rajawat, Malvika into quarters; Gayatri-Treesa also advance: Priyanshu Rajawat stormed into the men's singles quarterfinals with a straight-game 21-18 21-16 win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai in the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also advanced to the women's doubles quarters with a 16-21 21-11 21-19 win over Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu. Also making it to the last 8 was Malvika Bansod, who beat Czech Republic's Tereza Svabikova 15-21 21-19 21-14 in women's singles.

Gukesh draws with Nepo; Praggy too shares point: World Championship challenger D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw with Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, while fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa shared points with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the second round of the Superbet Chess Classic, a part of the Grand Chess tour.

Olympic-bound quarter-miler Kiran wins gold: Kiran Palahal of Haryana once again stole the limelight as she won the women's 400m race gold in 50.92 seconds -- the same time with which she had qualified for the Paris Olympics in the semifinals -- on Day 2 of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships.

ACTION TODAY

AUTO: F1, Austrian GP, Qualifying, 7.30 pm (Fancode); **BADMINTON:** US Open, Semis, 10.30 pm (Jio); **CRICKET:** ICC T20WC Final, India vs South Africa, 8 pm (Star); India Women vs South Africa Women, Only Test, Day 2, 9.30 am (Jio); **FOOTBALL:** Euro 2024, Switzerland vs Italy, 9.30 pm; Germany vs Denmark, 12.30 am Sunday (Sony)

Shafali-powered India run riot

Verma's Double Ton, Smriti's Century Help Hosts Amass 524/4 On Day One

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Chennai: Shafali Verma (205, 197b; 23x4, 8x6) and Smriti Mandhana (149, 161b, 27x4; 1x6) were a combination of ruthless striking of the ball and elegant strokes as they flattened records and the South African bowling attack on Day 1 of the one-off Test here on Friday.

While a young Shafali slammed a breathtaking double century, Smriti extended her purple patch with a sublime ton as the hosts piled a mammoth 525 for 4 in 98 overs at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. During her 288 minutes stay at the crease, Shafali helped herself to a few records. The opening batter scored the fastest double hundred in a women's Test off 194 balls and became only the second Indian



SUPER SHOW: Shafali Verma (L) and Smriti Mandhana have a light moment during their record 292-run partnership on Friday

to score a double century in red-ball cricket.

Shafali and Smriti made a cautious start as new-ball bowlers Masabata Klaas and debutant Annerie Dercksen kept things tight. But with negligible bounce to assist them, they delivered a slew of loose deliveries which helped the Indian openers get into their element. They scored boundaries at will to keep the motley crowd entertained. Once they found the rhythm, they were unstoppable.

The opening duo punished the Proteas for their shoddy fielding and found gaps at regular intervals. While southpaw Smriti mixed elegance with aggression, Shafali was at her aggressive best and paced her innings well. In the first two sessions, the left-right combination stamped their authority.

When the openers were in their 'not-so-nervous' nineties, it was a race to the century between them. Both were batting at 98 when Shafali forged ahead

NUMBERS GAME

1 For the first time in the history of women's Tests, 500 runs have been recorded on Day 1 of a match, the previous best being 431/4 by Eng Women vs NZ Women at Christchurch in 1934-35.

292 Runs put on by Mandhana & Verma for the first wicket -- an all-time first wicket partnership record in women's Tests, outstripping the 241 between Kiran Baluch & Sajida Shah for Pakistan Women vs WI Women in 2004.

—Rajesh Kumar

of her senior with a boundary and jumped in joy to celebrate her maiden Test century. With the 3000-odd fans still on their toes, Smriti reached the three-figure mark in the next over. **Brief scores:** India (1st innings): 525/4 in 98 overs (S Verma 205, S Mandhana 149, J Rodrigues 55, Harmanpreet Kaur 42 n.o., Richa Ghosh 43 n.o.; Delhi Tucker 2-141) vs South Africa.

Feisty Verma buries the ghost of Bristol

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Chennai: Three years ago, on a nippy day in June, Shafali Verma momentarily lapse in concentration cost her a century on debut. Understandably, the teenager was heartbroken after missing out on a 100 against England at Bristol. She still carries the scars. On Friday she revisited that moment during her innings against South Africa here, but remained focused during her record-breaking stay at the crease.

Speaking after a whirlwind knock of 205, Shafali, who took a single to bring up her double

194 Balls taken by Shafali to reach double century -- the quickest in women's Tests, bettering the 248 taken by Annabel Sutherland for Aus Women against SA Women at Perth in February this year.

205 Shafali Verma's maiden hundred is the second double century for India behind the 214 by Mithali Raj vs England Women at Taunton in 2002.

ton, said: "No one ever forgets getting dismissed on 96. Today, when I was at 96, those memories came back, but I was trying to back myself to hit those four runs. It's a special moment for me and I will savour it as a precious treasure for the rest of my life."

On the day, Shafali, a fearless striker of the ball, showcased her talent tempered with temperament. Although she had a mediocre outing in the recent three-match ODI series, she seamlessly transitioned into the whites and played pacers and spinners alike. The 27

fours and eight maximums were testimony to her brutal display of power hitting.

The 20-year-old showcased excellent wrist and footwork, dispatching a string of boundaries with finesse. Even when she lost her strong ally, Smriti Mandhana, she continued to cream the ball and enthralled the crowd with her favourite straight-down-the-ground shots. "It feels good to get both the maiden century and double century together. The ball was coming onto the bat nicely and I was able to hit exactly where I wanted. I just didn't want to get out," said Shafali.

Nagal drawn against Kecmanovic in Round 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sumit Nagal will take on Serbian 24-year-old Miomir Kecmanovic in his first-ever main draw match at the Wimbledon championships, starting on Monday.

Nagal, however, will be familiar and have happy memories of the hallowed lawns of the All England Club, having won the boys' doubles title with Vietnam's Nam Hoang Ly in 2015. Nagal and Nam had beaten Kec-



HOPING FOR THE BEST: Sumit Nagal

WIMBLEDON

manovic and Casper Ruud in the semis then.

The Indian, ranked 71 in the world, is on a high after securing his spot in the Olympics by winning an ATP Challenger on clay in Germany earlier this month.

Nagal, 26, enters the grasscourt major - not his favourite surface - without playing a tuneup event. Having followed up his Heilbronn title with another week on clay in Italy, where he was runner-up, Nagal took a much deserved fortnight's rest ahead of his men's singles debut at the Mecca of tennis.

Kecmanovic, world No. 53, will

pose a stern test for the Indian. The Serb, who touched a career-high 27 early last year, has maintained his top-100 ranking since 2019, the year when he finished runner-up to Jan-nik Sinner in the ATP NextGen Finals. The right-hander, a junior world No. 1 and Orange Bowl champion, is yet to make an impact at the elite level but has been a constant at the Grand Slams and other top-tier tournaments.

Beating Kecmanovic could pit Nagal against Dutch 27th seed Tallon Griekspoor in the second round, and should he advance to Round 3, he could run into World No. 1 and top seed Sinner.

Leading javelin thrower DP Manu suspended for doping offence

Panchkula: Javelin thrower DP Manu, who was being seen as an Olympic hopeful, has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency after testing positive for an anabolic steroid.

A source privy to the development confirmed to PTI that Manu's positive test came during the Indian Grand Prix in April this year.

Earlier, Manu was asked to stay away from competitions by the Athletics Federation of India on the instructions of NADA.

The 24-year-old Manu, who won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Cham-

pionships, was more or less certain to qualify for the Olympics through world ranking quota but is set to miss the Paris bus after the latest development.

He was in the initial entry list for the National Inter-State Championships which began on Thursday here. But his name has been dropped from the updated roster.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told PTI that NADA has asked the federation to stop Manu from competitions but he did not confirm whether the athlete has committed a doping offence. PTI



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LA Lakers picks Bronny James (L), son of basketball legend LeBron (R), in NBA draft – the league's 1st active father-son duo, **P 26**

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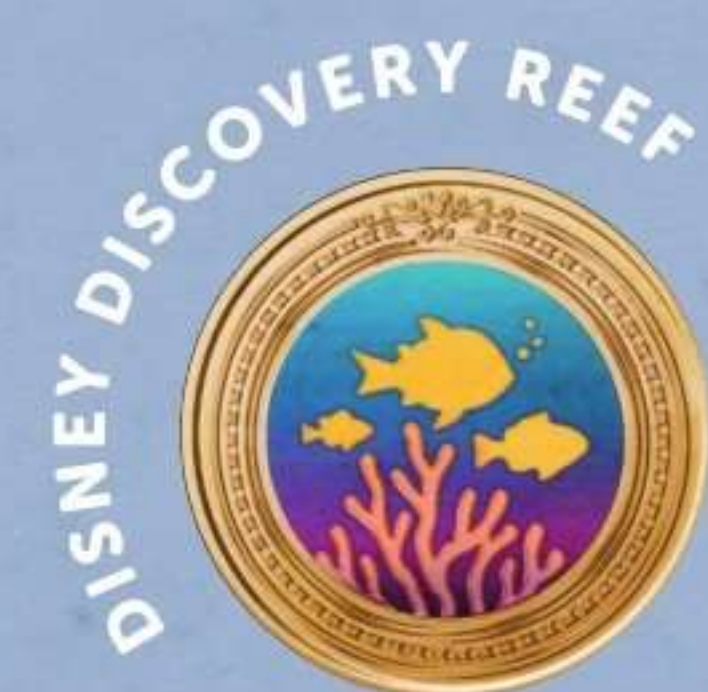
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